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Filing date: **02/02/2011**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	91191056
Party	Plaintiff White Rock Distilleries, Inc.
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Signature	/Daniel I. Schloss/
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD**

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION

Mark: PINNACLES RANCHES
Applicant: Franciscan Vineyards, Inc.
Serial No.: 77/298,674
Published in
the **Official Gazette**: March 17, 2009

WHITE ROCK DISTILLERIES, INC.)	
)	
Opposer,)	
)	
v.)	Opposition No. 91191056
)	
FRANCISCAN VINEYARDS, INC.,)	
)	
Applicant.)	
<hr/>		

OPPOSER'S NOTICE OF RELIANCE ON PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 2.122(e), Opposer, White Rock Distilleries, Inc., hereby gives notice that it intends to rely on the printed publications listed below, most of which were accessed and printed from publicly available web sites. The index below identifies the title of each printed publication, and each attached document identifies on its face the date on which the document was accessed and printed, as well the applicable URL identifying the online source of the document. The publication details of documents obtained from printed sources are identified as well. These documents are relevant to the pleaded claims set forth in Opposer's Notice of Opposition in the instant proceeding, namely, that the term "Pinnacles Ranches" is primarily geographically descriptive and fails to function as a trademark.

<u>Printed Publications</u>
U.S. Geological Survey, The National Map Viewer, Map showing location of “Pinnacles Ranch” Airport and surrounding areas.
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Danielle Smith, HollisterFreelance.com, <i>Pinnacles Ranch Purchase OK'd</i> , HOLLISTER FREE LANCE, Jun. 1, 2005.
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Trails.com, Pinnacles Ranch Airport USGS BICKMORE CANYON Quad, California, Topographic Map.
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weatherforyou.com, Latest Reported Weather Conditions for “Pinnacles Ranch, California, United States”.
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OurAirports Mobile Airport Directory, information regarding “Pinnacles Ranch Airport”.

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Scott Doggett, LATimes.com, <i>Deal Will Protect Central Coast Oaks</i> , LOS ANGELES TIMES, Feb. 8, 2005.
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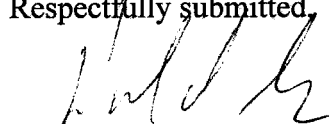
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Jill K. Robinson, SFGate.com, <i>Pinnacles</i> , SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, Mar. 21, 2010.
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Nature.org, The Nature Conservancy, <i>California, The Best Place to Be a Bee</i> .
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Amazon Book Search Result: John McKinney, <i>California's National Parks: A Day Hiker's Guide: Pinnacles National Monument</i> .
Amazon Book Search Result: Ann Marie Brown, <i>Foghorn Outdoors: 250 GREAT HIKES IN CALIFORNIA'S NATIONAL PARKS</i> .
NPS.gov, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, <i>Raptor Breeding Seasons Report for Pinnacles National Monument - 2008</i> .
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Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 2, 2011

By:



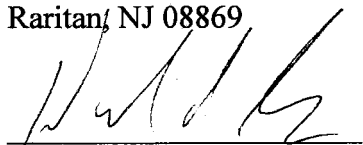
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 Masahiro Noda
 GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP
 200 Park Avenue, 34th Floor
 New York, New York 10166
 Tel: (212) 801-9200
 Fax: (212) 801-6400

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Date: February 2, 2011

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Opposer's Notice of Reliance on Printed Publications has been served by first class mail, postage prepaid, this 2nd day of February 2011 upon Franciscan Vineyards, Inc. at the following correspondence address of its counsel of record:

John M. Rannells, Esq.
Baker & Rannells, PA
575 Route 28, Suite 102
Raritan, NJ 08869

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Schloss', is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel I. Schloss



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Pinnacles Ranch Airport Charter Flights and Air Charter Service

International Air Charter is able to handle all of your air charter services to or from Pinnacles Ranch Airport. We will make sure that the flight you pick is the right one for you. The staff we use has years of experience in the air charter industry and will be sure that the flight you choose to or from Pinnacles Ranch Airport is the right one for you.

Pinnacles Ranch Airport Information

Location: Paicines, California

Type: Small Airport

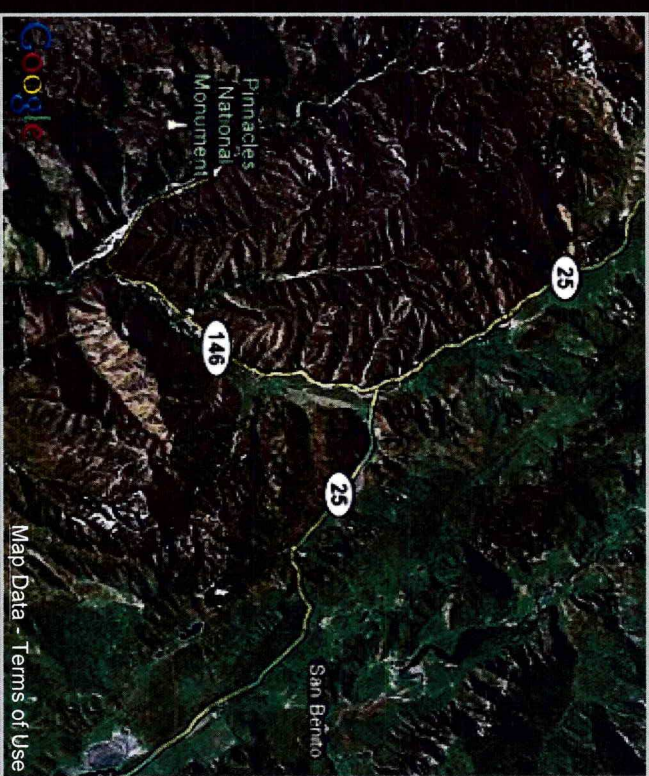
Scheduled Service: No

GPS Code: O23

Elevation: 1200 Feet

Latitude: 36.5102

Longitude: -121.135



Runways at Pinnacles Ranch Airport

Pinnacles Ranch Airport has 1 runway.

#	Length	Width	Surface	Lighted
1	2156 Feet	30 Feet	ASPH-P	No

Important Advantages of Traveling via Private Jet

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), sets the standards for flight regulations in the US. Both types of air flight systems, private and public, must go by the direction of the FAA. The FAA laws have been and are presently in place to keep the jets, the pilots and the public, secure in the air. The Federal Aviation Administration is within the guidance of the United States Department of Transportation (DOT). The FAA and the DOT, dually watch closely all flight concerns and actions for the safety travel of all people on U.S. airlines.

Commercial airlines, due to whines of stranded travelers are modernizing their computer programming systems. Domestic flights are adhering to congressional initiatives to establish a flyer complaint hotline to keep flyers informed on delays. These proposals also are to make certain that flyers stuck on the tarmac for extended periods of time, have restroom access, water, food and prompt medical attention as needed. Commercial airlines have taken huge steps to fill jets with flyers, by decreasing the quantities of jets in use and filling all seats on those craft that are flying. As a result, commercial planes have upped the amount of seats on departing flights. Additional initiated DOT rules have allowed commercial airlines to increase compensation for passengers who were not permitted boarding on flights that were over sold. In addition, customers can obtain a full refund within 24 hours of purchasing a ticket, and a reimbursement of baggage fees and reimbursement expenses when baggage is not delivered promptly. With these improvements, commercial airline travel has experienced a rise in on time flights.



Unfortunately, as a result of these different aircraft modifications, there has been a rise in air costs and checked luggage prices. Commercial airlines are asserting to help flyers with these costs, by issuing a one time yearly cost that will cover additional baggage on every flight, rather than buyers paying for extras at the moment of travel. Consumer protection people have lobbied that airlines are forced to more quickly notify flyers about flight delays and cancellations. Airline ticket agents can no longer market fees that are not the complete. Advertising for one-way tickets has to be more concisely said. As a result, there are online services that tell people when there is a good deal on flights and are offering fresh ways to track bargain fares. A lot of people watch dog air fare sites, are gunning for consumer members. Pretty much all of these travel sites give some sort of fare alert service, via e-mail notification, i.e., Twitter alerts, iPhone apps. In this way, travelers can now select the routes they want to watch and how they would like to be alerted.

Yet another nice feature for private plane travel is privacy. When you book a private plane, essentially, you have rented that jet for your personal travel. Private aircraft hires affords the

freedom to create your own schedule, thusly, highly lowering your travel time. Due to the popularity of private aircraft flying, airports in the United States and around the globe, have parking accommodations for private craft.

Private aircraft rentals also conform to the biggest safety guidelines of the FAA. Private aircraft carriers actually go past their FAA safety rules. Each nation private jet is licensed under FAA rules and every pilot is experienced, accomplishing a minimum of 5,000 flights hours, which goes beyond the FAA requirements. Many private plane rentals also can carry from 4 to 400 passengers. In numerous cases, people for a business or private jet hire, may walk or are driven directly to the craft's doorway. They are permitted to get on their flight without having to be being patted down or needing to go through a metal detector. Albeit, the airline industry statistics emphasize that private plane security has an excellent record, from operating its own strict security rules.

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Travel Resources

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Charles de Gaulle International Airport

The World Clock - Time Zones

Los Angeles International Airport

Car Rental

Miami International Airport

Discount Hotels

London Heathrow Airport

Wyvern Aviation Safety Intelligence

McCarran International Airport

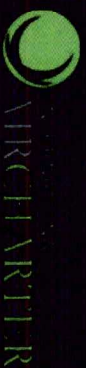
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Flying High

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Go To Hybrid



Pinnacles National Monument is a **United States National Monument** that protects a wilderness area containing the remains of half of a long-extinct volcano. It offers rugged hiking trails over high rock formations and through talus caves. **Pinnacles National Monument** 🇺🇸





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 **Pinnacles Air Park**
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Pinnacles Air Park is an airport in **Monterey County, California.**



HOLLISTER FREE LANCE

Senate debates Pinnacles Ranch purchase, park expansion

Thursday, June 30, 2005

By Danielle Smith

Hollister - The full U.S. Senate yesterday took up a bill that would provide \$3 million for the National Park Service to buy the Pinnacles Ranch property, with the goal of adding the 1,700-acre parcel to the adjacent Pinnacles National Monument.

The land is now held by the Nature Conservancy, which bought it in February to prevent it from being developed.

The ranch property, situated next to the east entrance of the park in San Benito County, currently houses the only campground serving the Monument.

The House has already passed its version of the bill, H.R. 2361, which originated in the Subcommittee for the Interior and Environment. It includes \$40 million for all recreation land and investments.

The Senate version, debate on which continues today on the floor, provides for \$162 million, with specific "earmarks." California Sen. Diane Feinstein pushed for the inclusion of the \$3 million, as well as an additional \$4.7 million for a visitor's center.

Ideally, The Nature Conservancy would transfer the land to the Park Service within three years.

If the bill passes in the Senate, it will next be taken up in a conference committee, to reconcile the differences between the two proposals.

"Usually something like this isn't too controversial," said Jessica Schaffer, Rep. Sam Farr's press secretary. "But it depends on how the other bills in conference are looking, where the money's going."

The property in question is often cited as crucial for the rehabilitation of the California Condor, which were released into the wild near the Pinnacles in 2002.

Without Park Service protection, hunting could resume on the property. The condor is known to be susceptible to lead poisoning from carrion left by hunters.

Scott Gerber, Sen. Feinstein's spokesman, described Feinstein as "confident" the money would survive the conference committee. If all goes well, he predicts that President Bush could sign the bill into law as early as October.

Congressman Sam Farr, who represents all of San Benito County, got the appropriations ball rolling, and worked with Sen. Feinstein to get the money into the senate version of the bill.

"Acquiring the Pinnacles Ranch for the Pinnacles National Monument has been a high priority for both me and the Administration," said Rep. Farr in a press release. "I'm very happy to hear that Senator Feinstein has been able to insert the rest of the needed funds into this year's Interior Department spending bill, especially since the House version did not allow such earmarks."

"We're thrilled about this," said Schaffer. "The Pinnacles is much-loved by many people, and we have a lot of support up in Washington."

Erin Musgrave contributed to this report.

Danielle Smith

HOLLISTER FREE LANCE

Pinnacles Ranch purchase OK'd

Friday, July 01, 2005

By Danielle Smith

Hollister - The U.S. Senate passed late Wednesday a \$162 million Interior Department appropriations bill that provides \$7 million to the National Park Service for the purchase of the Pinnacles Ranch property, adjacent to the Pinnacles National Monument's east entrance.

The vote was 94-0, with six senators not voting.

The bill includes \$3 million dollars to complete the purchase of the \$5.3 million plot. The remainder of the purchase price has already been budgeted for the U.S. Interior Department's Land Water Conservation Fund.

The bill also provides over \$4.7 million for a new visitor's center on the property. The Nature Conservancy, which purchased the property earlier in the year to prevent its development, plans to transfer the land to Park Services within 3 years.

"This is a great example of what we can do for conservation's success when lots of parties work together - from the sellers to the National Park Service to Representative Farr to Senator Feinstein to locals who care about the issue," said Misty Herrin, spokesperson for The Nature Conservancy.

"I am pleased that the Senate has approved funding to help add the lands of the Pinnacles Ranch to Pinnacles National Monument," said Sen. Diane Feinstein in a press release. "This will be instrumental in the reintroduction of the California Condor to the Central Coast and it will also help preserve this magnificent park and make it available for people who want to visit the Monument."

Now that the bill has passed in the Senate, the next step is running it through a conference committee that will negotiate the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. Feinstein has also been appointed to this committee.

The House version of the bill contains only a quarter of the money in the Senate bill, and does not include earmarks for specific projects.

The property in question is 1,700 acres and currently houses the only campground serving the Monument. Condors in this area will have greater protection from such things as deadly lead poisoning, which can result from the birds eating carrion left by hunters.

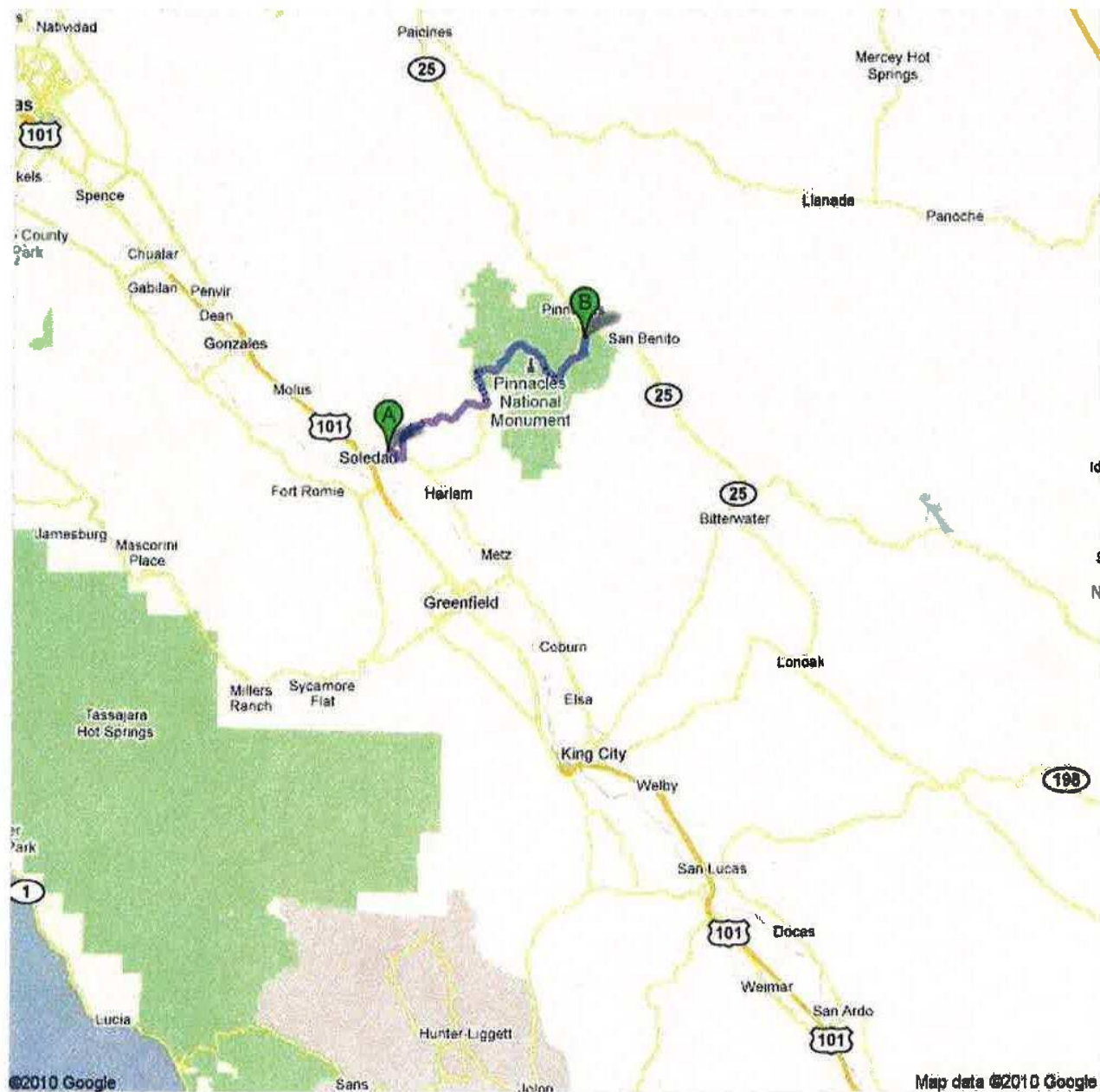
Danielle Smith











Directions to Pinnacles Ranch Airport, Paicines, CA 95043

18.5 mi – about 2 hours 40 mins

Bicycle Route: Estancia Winery (980 Bryant Canyon, Soledad CA) to Pinnacles Ranch Airport



 **Estancia Winery**
980 Bryant Canyon, Soledad, CA 93960-2830 - (831) 678-0214

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| | 1. Head east on Bryant Canyon Rd toward CA-146 E/Metz Rd
About 3 mins | go 0.7 mi
total 0.7 mi |
|  | 2. Turn left at CA-146 E/Metz Rd
About 3 mins | go 0.3 mi
total 1.0 mi |
|  | 3. Turn left at Stonewall Canyon Rd
About 7 mins | go 1.1 mi
total 2.1 mi |
|  | 4. Turn right to stay on Stonewall Canyon Rd
About 55 mins | go 4.4 mi
total 6.5 mi |
|  | 5. Slight right toward Stonewall Canyon Rd
About 7 mins | go 0.8 mi
total 7.3 mi |
| | 6. Continue straight onto Stonewall Canyon Rd
About 2 mins | go 0.4 mi
total 7.7 mi |
|  | 7. Turn left at CA-146 W
About 21 mins | go 1.9 mi
total 9.6 mi |
|  | 8. Turn right to stay on CA-146 W
About 11 mins | go 1.5 mi
total 11.2 mi |
| | 9. Continue onto Balconies Trail
About 5 mins | go 0.7 mi
total 11.8 mi |
| | 10. Continue onto Balconies Caves Trail
About 5 mins | go 0.4 mi
total 12.2 mi |
| | 11. Continue onto Old Pinnacles Trail
About 15 mins | go 1.9 mi
total 14.2 mi |
|  | 12. Continue onto CA-146 E
About 16 mins | go 2.8 mi
total 17.0 mi |
|  | 13. Turn right
About 5 mins | go 0.6 mi
total 17.6 mi |
|  | 14. Sharp left
About 5 mins | go 0.8 mi
total 18.4 mi |
|  | 15. Turn left
About 1 min | go 0.2 mi
total 18.5 mi |

 **Pinnacles Ranch Airport, Paicines, CA 95043**

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Feature Name	ID	Class	County	State ▲	Latitude	Longitude	Elev(ft)*	Map**	BGN	Entry Date
Pinnacles Ranch Airport	1653795	Airport	San Benito	CA	363036N	1210810W	1161	Bickmore Canyon	-	01-MAR-94

1 - 1

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Note: If data are returned and the column headings display but no data appear, click any column heading.

***Elevations are from the [National Elevation Dataset](#)**

****The map name is not necessarily the name of the community containing the feature. See [FAQs](#) for details.**

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Feature Detail Report for: Pinnacles Ranch Airport

ID: **1653795**Name: **Pinnacles Ranch Airport**Class: **Airport** ([Definitions](#))Description: **Facility is located 23 mi NW from Paicines**

Citation: **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) listing of airports and other landing areas in the United States with associated information, 1981. Now available in CD format published quarterly. The year and month of the CD follows if known: 940309**

Entry Date: **01-Mar-1994***Elevation: **1161/354***Elevations in feet/meters from the [National Elevation Dataset](#)

Counties

Sequence	County	Code	State	Code	Country
1	San Benito	069	California	06	US

Coordinates (One point per USGS topographic map containing the feature, NAD83)

Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
1	36.5099639	-121.1360304	363036N	1210810W	Bickmore Canyon

Designations

Designation

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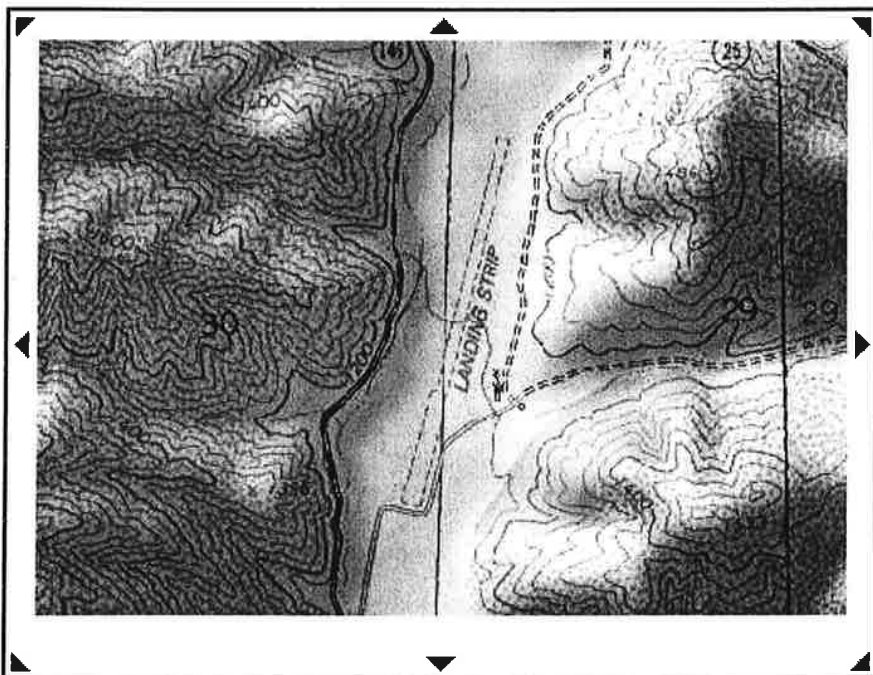
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Pinnacles Ranch Airport USGS BICKMORE CANYON Quad, California, Topographic Map

Pinnacles Ranch Airport is an Airport in the state of [California](#) (county of San Benito), located at latitude - longitude coordinates (also known as lat-long or GPS coordinates) of N 36.50996 and W -121.13603. Pinnacles Ranch Airport is shown in the center of the topographic (topo) map, which is sourced from the United States Geographical Survey map USGS BICKMORE CANYON quad. The nearest major town is New Idria, CA.

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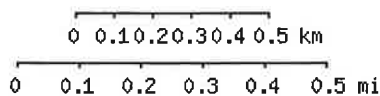


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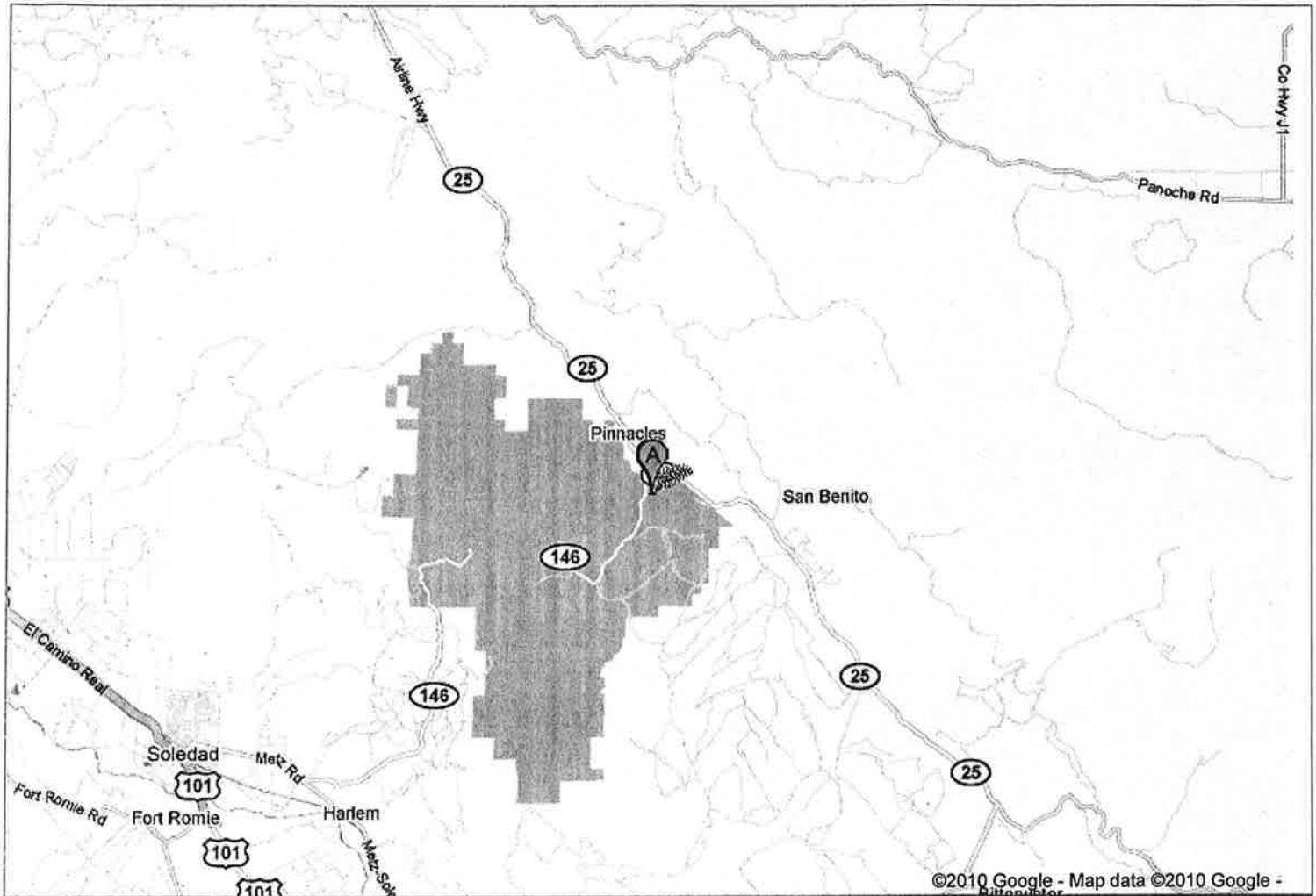
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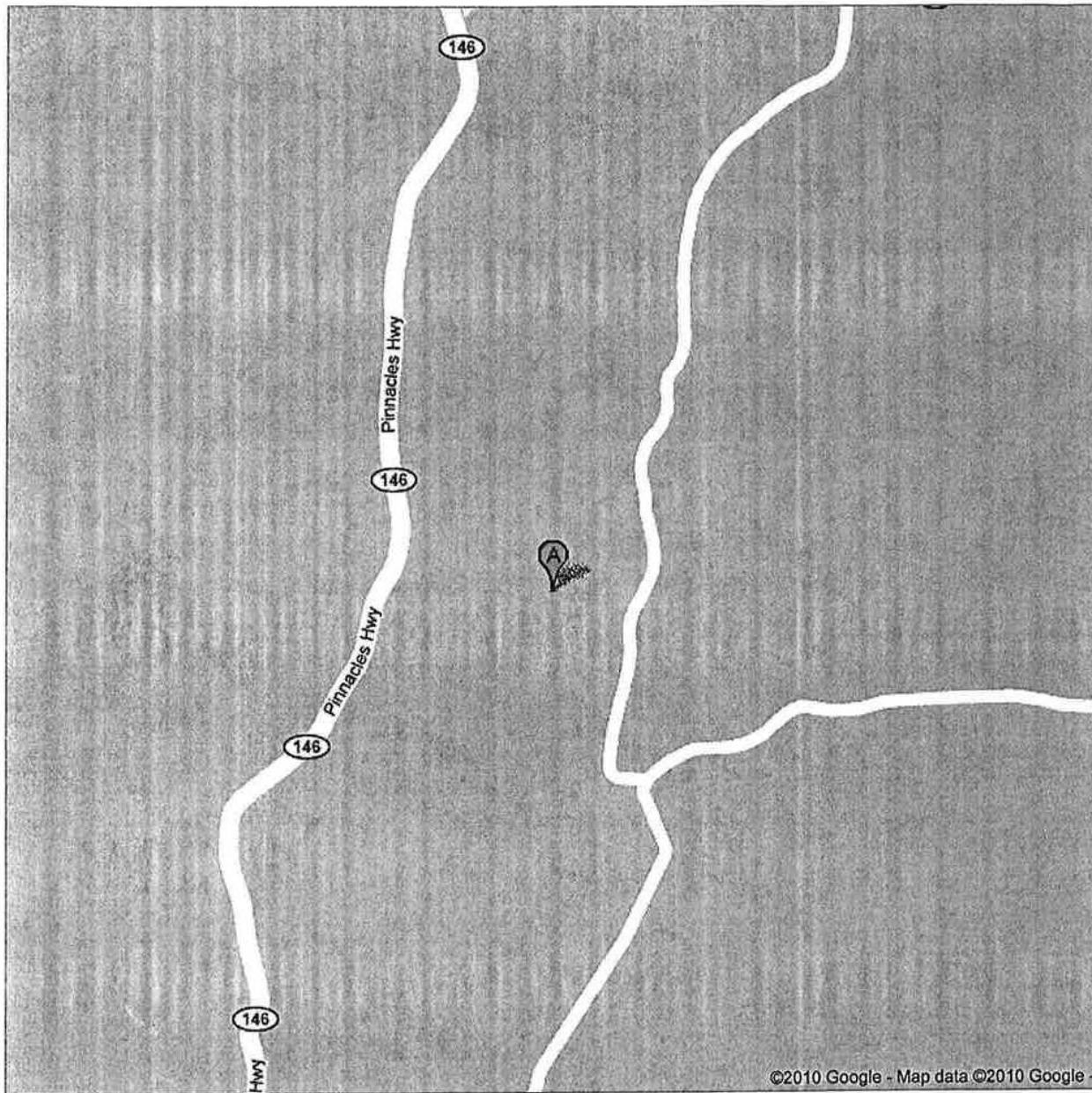
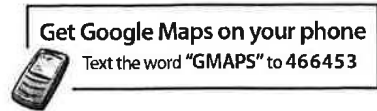
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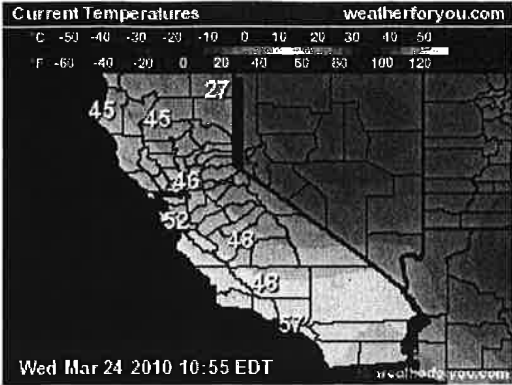
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Map of Pinnacles Air Park, United States of America on Google Map



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Pinnacles Ranch Airport California

Feature Name: Pinnacles Ranch Airport
Feature Type: [airport](#)
State: [California](#)
County: San Benito
County Population: 53234
County Housing Units: 16499
County Size: 1389.06 Square Miles
Latitude: 36.51
Longitude: -121.135
Elevation: 1200
Map Cell Name: Bickmore Canyon
Geographic Keywords: [Pinnacles](#)

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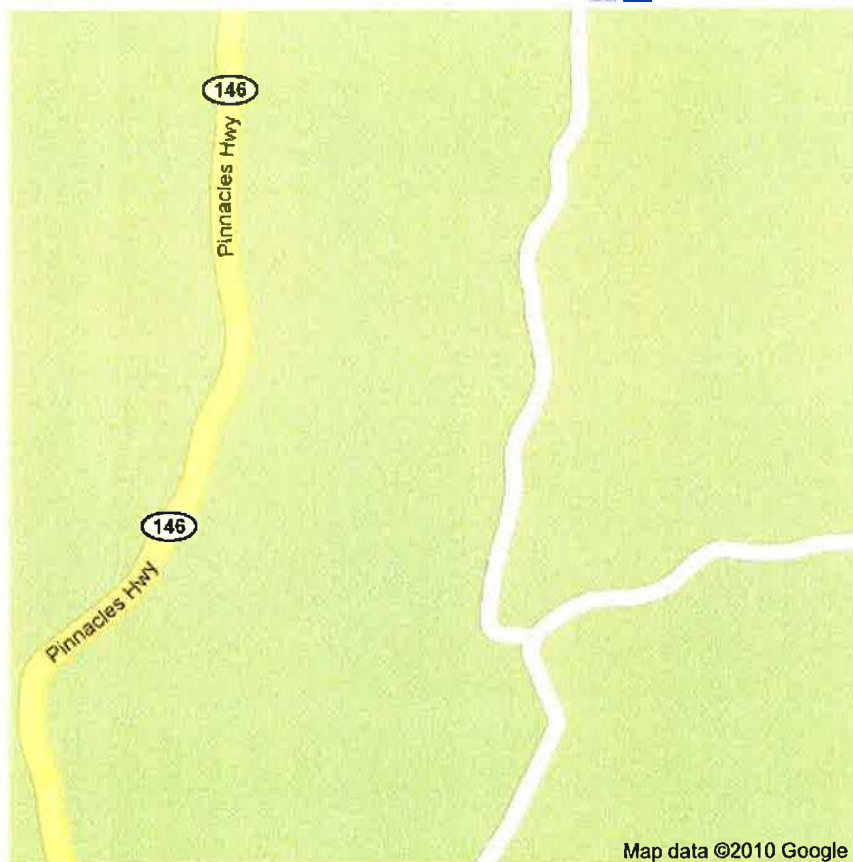
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View Airfield - Pinnacles Ranch Airport - General

Airfield: Pinnacles Ranch Airport

Section: General

Location


Latitude/Longi 36° 30.60' N Elevation: 400 yd
121° 08.10' W

Roadmap:



Weather

Weather: Data provided by the National Weather Service.
Salinas Municipal Airport as of 2010/02/18 18:23

Conditions	Wind	Humidity
	0 mph	Relative 93%
mist	Pressure	Dew Point 48°F
50°F	29.96 inHg	Visibility
		3 mi

Forecast:

History

Submitted by Seth on Mar 11, 06.

Editing Information

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Airfield ID: 7644

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Pinnacles Ranch Airport

Jump to: [basic info](#) | [weather](#) | [runways](#) | [comments](#)

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Basic information

Codes: **O23**

Location: *lon* 36.5102005005, *lat* -121.135002136, *elev* 1,200 ft / 366 m *msl*

Status: **small_airport**

Weather

Current conditions for [Salinas Municipal Airport 24nm \(45km\) WNW](#) (rec'd 2010/02/18 16:53Z):

KSNS 181653Z 00000KT 3/4SM BR OVC002 09/09 A2996 RMK AO2 SLP154 T00940094

Airport forecast for [Salinas Municipal Airport 24nm \(45km\) WNW](#) (rec'd 2010/02/18 11:36Z):

TAF KSNS 181136Z 1812/1912 12005KT 1/4SM FG VV001
FM181700 12008KT 5SM BR SCT002 SCT250
FM181800 12008KT P6SM BKN250
FM182100 26007KT P6SM OVC250
FM190300 30004KT P6SM SCT180

Runways

14/32: 2,156 x 30 ft (657 x 9 m) — other (ASPH-P)

Latest comments

codes **O23** / **CL56**: The FAA has coded this airport (O23) as CL56 [\[read\]](#)

More...

See also [NOTAMs](#) and [nearby airports](#), or visit the [Pinnacles Ranch Airport](#) page at the main OurAirports website..

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Feature Detail Report for: Pinnacles

ID: 252765

Name: Pinnacles

Class: **Populated Place** - Place or area with clustered or scattered buildings and a permanent human population (city, settlement, town, village). A Populated Place is not incorporated and has no legal boundaries. Distinct from Census and Civil classes. ([Definitions](#))

Citation: U.S. Geological Survey. Geographic Names Phase I data compilation (1976-1981). 31-Dec-1981. Primarily from U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000-scale topographic maps (or 1:25K, Puerto Rico 1:20K) and from U.S. Board on Geographic Names files. In some instances, from 1:62,500 scale or 1:250,000 scale maps.

Entry Date: 19-Jan-1981

*Elevation: 1270/387

*Elevations in feet/meters from the [National Elevation Dataset](#)

Federal Codes

Census Code Census Class Code

57277 U6

Class Code Description: **Populated (Community) Place** (except those associated with facilities). A populated place that is not a census designated or incorporated place having an official federally recognized name.

Variant Names

Variant Name

Cook [Citation](#)

Counties

Sequence	County	Code	State	Code	Country
1	San Benito	069	California	06	US

Coordinates (One point per USGS topographic map containing the feature, NAD83)

Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
1	36.5307965	-121.1451978	363151N	1210843W	Bickmore Canyon

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http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=36.5307965&p_long=-121.1451978&fid=2 - Microsoft Internet Explorer English (United States) English (United States) Live Search

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USGS
Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)

Click red balloon: to see feature detail. Drag red balloon: to find coordinates of any point. Refresh page: to restore original point(s).
(Note: If the map does not display properly after a few seconds, press Ctrl-F5.)

Map Satellite Hybrid Topo DOQ Terrain

Feature ID: 252765
Feature Name: Pinnacles
Latitude/Longitude:
36.530797,-121.145198
Feature Sequence : 1

Map showing the Pinnacles National Monument area in California. The map includes labels for various locations such as Hollister, Salinas, San Benito, and Pinnacles. A red balloon points to the Pinnacles National Monument, displaying its details.

Done

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Feature Detail Report for: Pinnacles High School

ID: **1873450**Name: **Pinnacles High School**Class: **School** ([Definitions](#))Citation: **Monterey County Street Guide and Directory. Irvine, California: Thomas Brothers Maps, 1991.**Entry Date: **13-Jun-2000***Elevation: **190/58***Elevations in feet/meters from the [National Elevation Dataset](#)

Counties

Sequence	County	Code	State	Code	Country
1	Monterey	053	California	06	US

Coordinates (One point per USGS topographic map containing the feature, NAD83)

Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
1	36.4271869	-121.3293744	362538N	1211946W	Soledad

Mapping Services

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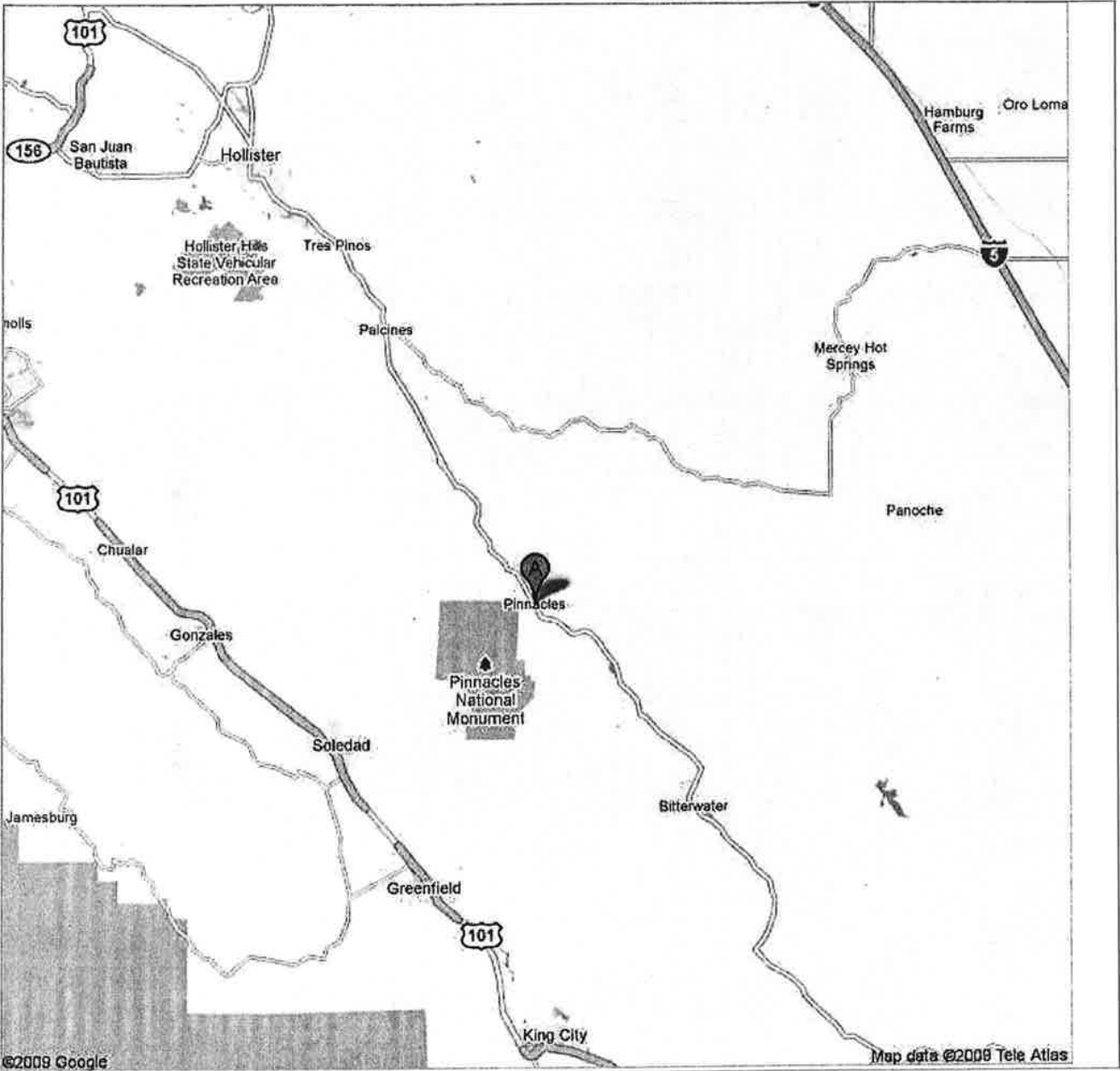
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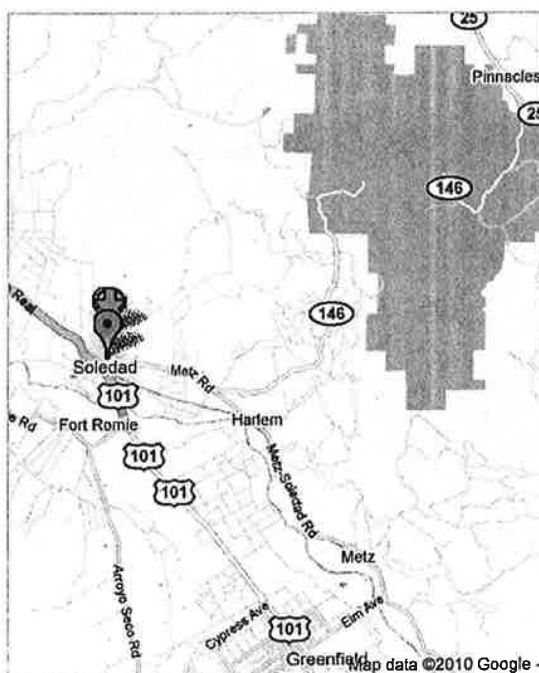
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Public school
81 students
Continuation

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Soledad's Pinnacles High School serves grades 9-12 in the Soledad Unified School District. Based on its state test results, it has received a GreatSchools Rating of 1 out of 10.

Parents have reviewed this school and given it an average rating of 4 out of 5 stars.

- ☒ Nearby high schools
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Pinnacles High School test scores

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Teacher Stats
Pinnacles High School teachers

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Pinnacles High School students

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School Finance
Pinnacles High School spending per pupil

GO

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[Pinnacles High School - Soledad, California - CA - School overview](#)





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Pinnacles High School

690 Main Street

Soledad, CA **93960**

Phone: (831) 678-6301

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Status:Operational

Type:Regular

Grades:9th - 12th

School Location: A Town Distant From A Large Urbanized Area

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Brief Description

Pinnacles High School Serves 9th Through 12th Grade Students From The City Of **Soledad**, Which Is Part Of Monterey County. This School Is Eligible For Participation In State & Federal Title I Programs. Some Or All Students From This School Participate In Free Or Reduced Lunch Programs.

School Information

[This School](#) [Public](#) [Private](#)

General Information

Number of Students: 84

Number of Full-Time Teachers: 0

Student:Teacher Ratio: 280.0:1

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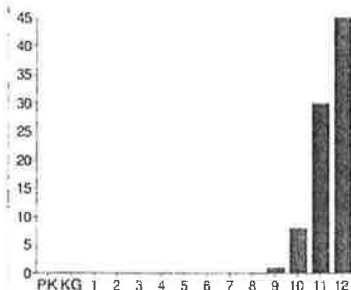
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[Students Per Grade](#)

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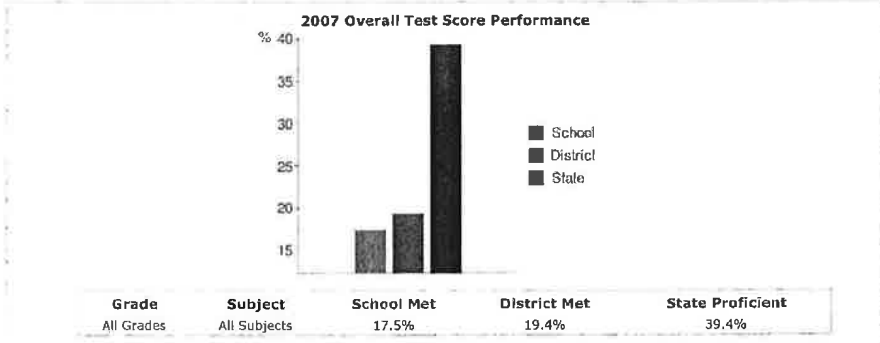
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- 10th Grade: 8
- 11th Grade: 30
- 12th Grade: 45



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*Source: NCES 2006-2007; CA Department of Education; Local Districts and Schools

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San Juan Bautista, CA

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Soledad, CA

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Like most of the missions in California, Mission San Juan Bautista is owned by the Catholic Church, but unlike at most others, the plaza and historic buildings around the mission church and museum are a part of San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. ...

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Everything about San Juan Bautista—both mission and town—reflects California's colonial heritage. The abundance that both Native peoples and Europeans found in the San Juan Valley is still obvious, with neatly cultivated fields spreading north below ...

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Pinnacles National Monument is a fascinating park. Miles of challenging trails thread over rock outcrops, along creeks, and even through caves. Unfortunately, the park's prime walk-in campground, on the west side of the park, was washed away in 1998'...

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Pinnacles is a community or populated place (**Class Code U6**) located in **San Benito County** at latitude 36.531 and longitude -121.145 ([Pinnacles Panoramio Photos](#)). The elevation is 1,270 feet. Pinnacles appears on the **Bickmore Canyon** U.S. Geological Survey Map. **San Benito County** is in the Pacific time zone (GMT -8). Observes DST? Yes.
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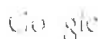
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Inn at the Pinnacles



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The Inn at the Pinnacles is open weekends (Fridays and Saturdays. Inquire for Thursdays and Sundays). We accept phone calls daily from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Phone: (831) 678-2400

Email: info@innatthepinnacles.com

In addition to calling or emailing us, please feel free to use the [inquiry form](#) below. We will respond back to you as soon as we can.

The Inn at the Pinnacles is situated in the beautiful, tranquil setting of the Gabilan Mountains in Monterey County, Soledad, California, and is just a few miles from the West entrance to the Pinnacles National Monument.

Directions from Highway 101 Southbound (see map)

Take the Soledad/Front Street exit and turn right on Front Street
Turn left on East Street
Turn right on Metz Road (Highway 146)
Continue on Metz Road and turn left on Highway 146, following the signs to the Pinnacles National Monument
Turn left on Stonewall Canyon Road
About 0.3 mile, turn left at the sign for the Inn at the Pinnacles

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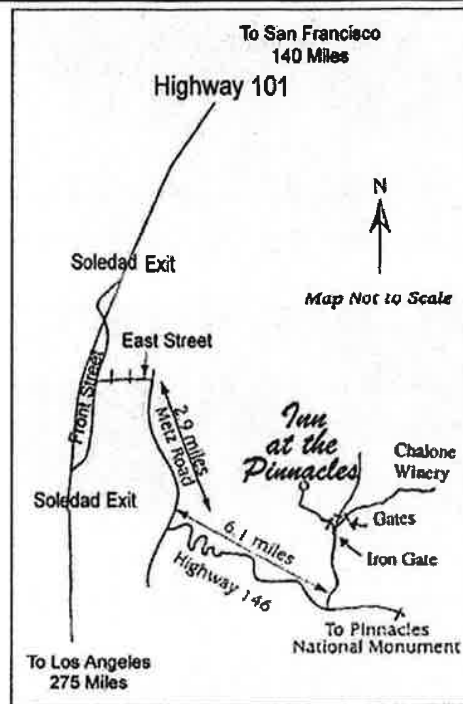
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You may see a sign for Stonewall Canyon Road leading to Syar Industries - this is not the right way!

Directions from Highway 101 Northbound (see map)

Take the Soledad exit and turn right on East Street
Turn right on Metz Road (Highway 146)
Continue on Metz Road and turn left on Highway 146, following the signs to the Pinnacles National Monument
Turn left on Stonewall Canyon Road
About 0.3 mile, turn left at the sign for the Inn at the Pinnacles

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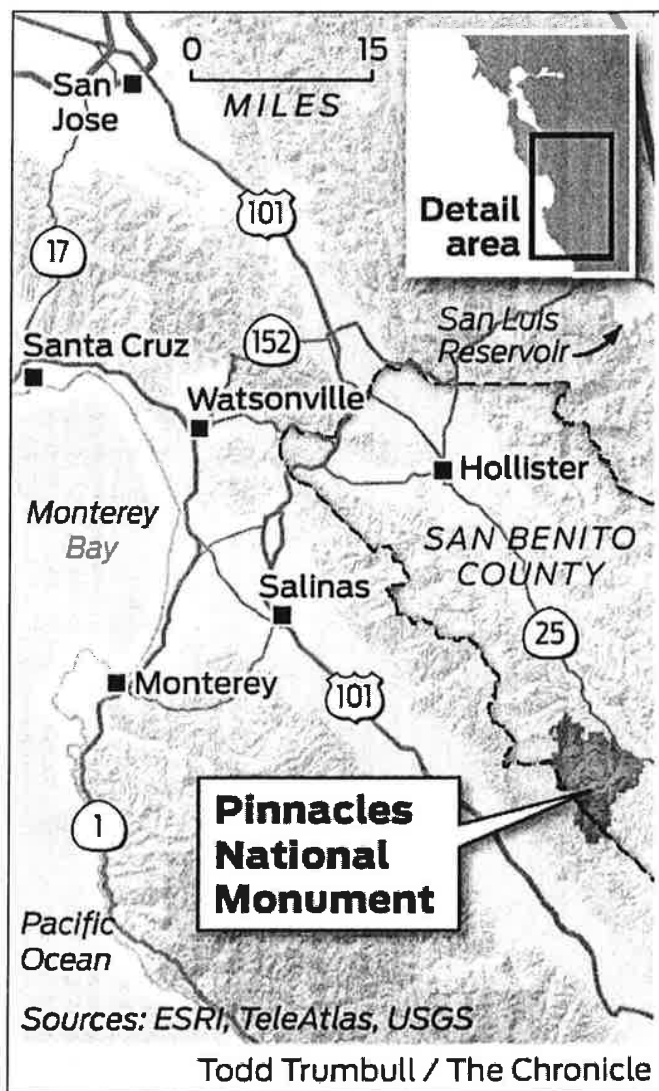
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Pinnacles National Monument (Todd Trumbull / The Chronicle)

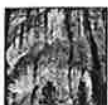


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DISCOVER CALIFORNIA'S STEALTH WINE REGION





Hollister, CA


Due east of Monterey County, San Benito County is California's stealth wine region—respected by winemakers, little known by the public. But this is a beautiful pocket of the state, well worth visiting for its 19th-century towns, graceful mission, and lonely but glorious country drives—not to mention its growing group of wineries. State 25 hopscotches the San Andreas Fault as it runs south into the Gabilan Mountains, where Calera Wine Company has set standards for Pinot Noir for more than 25 years. Newcomers, bottling varieties such as Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot, are also making San Benito a region to watch.


Trip Time: 1 to 2 days


Begin your tour in Hollister. To get there from U.S. 101, take State 156 east through San Juan Bautista, or, if you are heading south, you can opt for State 25. Now a booming bedroom community of Silicon Valley, Hollister still retains sections of old-fashioned charm from its 19th-century origins as a farming and ranching town. As you cruise through, be on the lookout for picnic supplies, as the rural countryside offers few provisions.


First stop: [Léal Vineyards](#) , southeast of Hollister off State 25 and Fairview Avenue. When former fencing contractor cum winery owner Frank Léal tasted his first Central Coast Chardonnay, after the usual "honeyed, tropical, creamy" comments, he declared, "This wine is the shiznit!" (urban lingo for really, really good. Remember, Frank's on the young side). The phrase is still on the labels of this up-and-coming winery.


To reach the wineries that hug the slopes of the Gabilan Mountains, jog southwest of town a few miles onto Cienega Road. Some of the big, rustic wines at [DeRose Vineyards](#) , 5 miles south, come from vines planted in the 19th century. One of the most exotic is Negrette, an old French variety (rare even in France now) once called Pinot St. George. DeRose partners bought some of the former Almaden vineyard land, along with that winery's huge underground wine cellar. Open 11-4 on weekends, and weekdays by appointment.

Just south, the grandest of all the wineries in the county, Tuscan-style [Pietra Santa Winery](#) —also on an old Almaden Winery parcel—was the creation of second-generation Italian-American Joseph Gimelli, who added Dolcetto, Sangiovese, and Pinot Grigio to the region's grape lineup, and restored a 1906 Zinfandel block. The view from the second-story tasting room is spectacular.

The vineyards at [Calera Wine Company](#) , 2 miles south, are in the same limestone-rich soil shared by Chalone Vineyard in Monterey County 20 miles across the Gabilan range. Calera's owner, Josh Jensen, makes single-vineyard Pinot Noirs that are consistently rated among the best in the state—in a place most wine drinkers have never heard of.

Scott Flint of [Flint Wine Cellars](#) , former assistant winemaker at Calera, has struck out on his own a few miles south to produce great Pinot Noir with the same Calera values—natural nuances from as little handling of the wine as possible. Visiting and tasting here are homey, personal encounters. Open by appointment.

If time and picnic provisions permit, a trip to [Pinnacles National Monument](#)  makes a stunning detour. Continue southeast on Cienega Road to where it joins State 25, then travel south about 18 miles to State 146 and west into the park. Straddling the crest of the Gabilan Mountains, the pinnacles are eroded remnants of an ancient volcano, dragged here from Southern California by the San Andreas Fault. The park contains 30 miles of hiking trails and, in spring, dramatic displays of lupine, poppies, and other wildflowers.

Retrace your route to San Juan Bautista and sleepy civilization. With its sense of keeping one foot firmly in the 19th century, this is one of the most appealing towns in California. [Old Mission San Juan Bautista](#) , in continuous use from 1812, is the mission made famous in Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*.

At the end of a day of wine country touring, a margarita is surprisingly refreshing, and those at [Jardines de San Juan](#) hit the spot. Two more draws: lovely gardens and good Mexican food.

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[Pietra Santa Winery](#)

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Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 636-1991

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Hollister, CA 95023-9159
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[Jardines de San Juan](#)

115 3rd Street
San Juan Bautista, CA 95045
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THE GILROY DISPATCH

A Pinnacle of Achievement

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Hollister - More than 50 people gathered under a bright sky at Pinnacles National Monument Tuesday to see the nearly 1,700-acre Pinnacles Ranch and campground become part of the park.

Flanked on either side by students from Jefferson Elementary School - the one-room school in South San Benito County - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) tightened the bolts of the arrow-shaped National Parks Service crest that will now hang at the entrance of the Pinnacles Campground. In the distance a bobcat scurried across the small road that meanders through the park.

"Welcome to Pinnacles National Monument," park Superintendent Eric Brunnemann said to those gathered once the sign was attached.

Tuesday marked culmination of more than a decade of work by landowners, environmentalists and members of Congress. The National Park Service recently purchased the 1,967-acre Pinnacles Ranch for \$5.3 million from the Nature Conservancy. The acquisition brings large tracts of native grasslands, riparian areas and about 700 acres of oak woodlands under the protection of the parks service and eliminates the possibility that the land will be developed.

The grassy slopes and oak woodlands of the ranch will add needed foraging grounds for the California condor, according to the Nature Conservancy. Several young condors have been released in the area since 2003 in an effort to make the species thrive. The ranch and park are also home to bobcats, golden eagles, deer and more than 100 bird species.

Development of the ranch would have held "terrible implications" for the condors and other wildlife on the ranch, according to Nature Conservancy spokesperson Misty Herrin.

Nature lovers will also benefit from the ranch acquisition, according to Brunnemann. The 120 sites at the Pinnacles Campground will remain open, just as they have for the past year under the management of the Nature Conservancy, he said.

When landowners Peggy and Stu Kingman put the Pinnacles Ranch on the market about 12 years ago, they knew that they wanted the ranch to become part of the Pinnacles National Monument. The park service, however, lacked the funds to purchase it. Dedicated to their vision for the ranch's future, the Kingmans held onto the land.

Just more than a year ago, the Nature Conservancy purchased the Pinnacles Ranch for \$5.3 million and waited as Farr and U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein worked in Congress to get funding to purchase the land.

"It's been a long haul, I have to say," Stu Kingman said. "It's been a long 12 years to get this done, but it was worth it."

The Kingmans, who have lived on the Pinnacles Ranch property for nearly 30 years, weren't immediately enamored with the area when they made their first trip to the Pinnacles National Monument in the 1960s. During Tuesday's ceremony, Stu Kingman recalled the family trip to the park one August.

"It was hot, miserably hot, yellow jackets all over the place" he said. " We had a miserable night and said to ourselves, 'we never want to live in a place like this.' "

In 1978, however, the Kingmans moved to the centuries old Pinnacles Ranch. During the intervening years, the Kingmans developed a deep bond with the land.

"I get very emotional about the property," Peggy Kingman said. "It just grows on you, it sustains you."

THE GILROY DISPATCH

A 2,000-acre bonanza

Friday, February 04, 2005

Paicines - After a decade-long battle to save Pinnacles Ranch from possible development, the Nature Conservancy has purchased the 1,967 acre property ensuring it will stay in the hands of the National Parks Service forever.

The \$5.3 million sale, which was announced Thursday, is being celebrated as a huge victory by environmentalists, park staff and the ranch's owners, Peggy and Stu Kingman, who have sat on the sale of the ranch for more than a decade to ensure it could be purchased by the national monument.

"It's been a fabulous week for us," said Cicely Muldoon, the superintendent of Pinnacles National Monument. "This has been the effort of so many people over so many years."

The park received half the funds last November as a result of a federal appropriations bill that was heavily lobbied by U.S. Congressman Sam Farr and U.S. senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein. The other \$2.6 million came as a loan from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to the Nature Conservancy, who used the money to acquire the ranch.

"The sale means that the ranch is secured," said Jessica Schafer, spokeswoman for Congressman Farr's office. "Having the land there and assured that it is ready to go is really great."

The Conservancy plans to transfer the property over the next three years to the National Parks Service, giving them time to secure the remainder of the money for the purchase of the land.

Muldoon is optimistic that Congress will approve the funds or that the money will be raised by private donors.

"The full funding for the park was in the president's budget," she said. "It's got bipartisan support and is recognized as an important acquisition."

The sale will add 700 acres of oak woodlands and extensive grass and riparian, or creekside, habitat to the park and ensure the continuity of the condor release program, started in December of 2003. Currently, monument staff use a service road that runs through the ranch to get to the location where the scavenger birds are released and the ranch purchase means the spot it will be protected in future years.

The ranch and the greater park are also home to bobcats, golden eagles, deer and 148 species of birds, making it a unique wildlife corridor in the Gabilan Mountains, said Peggy McNutt, managing director of Nature Conservancy's Central Coast Region.

"The habitat that exists on the ranch is different from the rest of the park and actually helps support a wider variety of plant and animal life," she said.

Pinnacles Ranch dates back at least several centuries and has been home to the Kingmans for close to 30 years. The couple could not be reached for comment on Thursday. However, in previous interviews, Stu Kingman said that he had been trying to sell the land for a decade and was afraid the park would not be able to come up with the money to buy the ranch.

Through the agreement with the Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service, the Kingmans will get to live on the property until they die or decide to move away.

The 120-site campground that is on the property of the ranch will also be saved and eventually upgraded, said Muldoon. And because the land is flat, more accessible trails will be added, ensuring that the beauty and biological diversity of the park is enjoyed by more people.

"The land owners displayed great patience in waiting for us to get to this point" said Muldoon. "They've been fabulous stewards of the land because they know how special it is."



Cicely Muldoon, superintendent for Pinnacles National Monument, stands beside the land purchased by the Nature Conservancy.

HOLLISTER FREE LANCE

First condor nest at Pinnacles in a century

Tuesday, March 09, 2010

By The Free Lance Staff (editor@freelancenews.com)

Pinnacles National Monument has discovered the first condor nest there in more than 100 years, according to a press statement.

"We are thrilled that after being involved with the Condor Recovery Program since 2003, the park has its first nest in over 100 years," said Eric Brunnemann, park superintendent, in the statement.

The two condors, both around 7 years old, chose a nest cave that can be viewed easily by the public from the Scout Peak bench on the High Peaks Trail, he said.

The statement says biologists will be closely monitoring the nest to determine if the new parents succeed in incubating the egg and rearing a young bird to fledge from the high rocky cliff. Condor eggs take an average of 57 days to hatch. Nestlings remain flightless for an additional five to six months.



A temporary closure area around the nest cliff is in effect during the 2010 breeding season. An area extending from Western Front to Goat Rock and north to the edge of the Juniper Canyon Trail will be closed to protect the nesting birds. The Juniper Canyon and High Peaks trails remain open. Park visitors interested in off trail activities within the Monument should consult with a park ranger for specific guidance, according to Pinnacles.

Last year marked the first in which a Pinnacles-released condor nested. Condor 313 paired with Condor 303 who laid an egg in a rocky outcrop at the RS Bar Guest Ranch in southern San Benito County. Although Condor 303 died before her nestling took his first flight, the juvenile survived and continues to fly over San Benito County.

The Free Lance Staff

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HOLLISTER FREE LANCE

Farr introduces Pinnacles bill

Friday, July 31, 2009

By The Free Lance Staff (editor@freelancenews.com)

WASHINGTON D.C.

Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) introduced a bill today to Congress that would change the designation of Pinnacles National Monument to Pinnacles National Park, according to a press release from the congressman's office. The bill is called the Pinnacles National Park Act.

"Upgrading Pinnacles to a National Park makes sense for historic, natural and economic reasons," Farr said in the release. "This area is much more than rock formations. It's a huge swatch of land with historical significance for the state, it provides an important refuge for the California Condor and it has great potential for tourism revenue."

The designation of "monument" is given to smaller areas that have a specific resource without much diversity. According to the release, Pinnacles National Monument is comprised of 14,500 acres and home to 32 species holding special federal or state status and offers much more than rock formations.

The bill, titled H.R. 3444, would also give the Interior Secretary the power to acquire land within the boundaries of the park as deemed necessary.



The Free Lance Staff

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HOLLISTER FREE LANCE

Pinnacles Plans for Next Century

Friday, March 16, 2007

By Alice Joy (ajoy@freelancenews.com)

Hollister - The National Park Services is inviting Hollister residents to share their ideas for the future of the Pinnacles National Monument.

"We have ideas for what we'd like to do, but we can't work in a vacuum," said Carl Brenner, supervisor of interpretation and education for the park. "It's everyone's national park and we have to know what they want. We want to know what the populous would like to see."

A planning team for Pinnacles National Monument is holding meetings in Hollister and other nearby communities throughout the month of March to gather public ideas and input for the future of the park.

This information will be used to create a new general management plan, which will serve as a guide for the park for the next 20 years.

"Our goal is to get a general direction," park superintendent Eric Brunnemann said. "We look at our legislation, the mission statement, and that tells us what we can do. Then we say, given the law, what would people like to see?"

Park officials say the creation of the general management plan should take about two years to complete. They are still in the first stages of the plan's development, during which they invite input from residents of nearby communities and other park-goers on what they would like the visitor experience to be for the next 20 years.

So far, public opinions and responses have been varied.

"There's a whole myriad of thoughts of what people would like," Brenner said. "It's been all across the board: We have people who want it to stay exactly the same as when they were growing up, and people who would like to see additional programs or facilities moved to the park."

Brunnemann said there have been some recurring ideas for how to improve the park. People have mentioned easier accessibility to areas of the park, increasing the number of trails and changing the status from a national monument to a national park as areas of focus for the general plan.

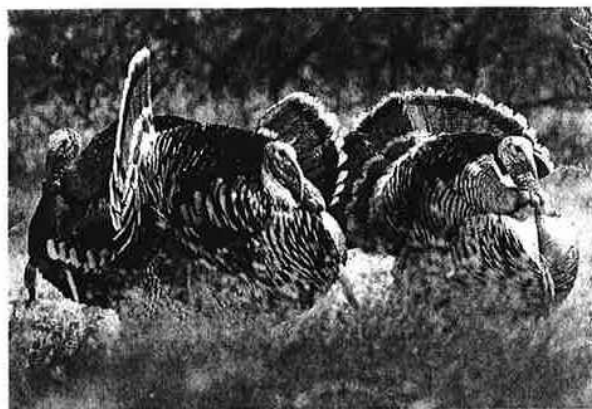
San Benito County Supervisor Reb Monaco said he hopes that a main focus of the plan will be on making sure everyone can enjoy the park.

"I think that it belongs to the people, so access has always been my issue - anything they can do to increase access for everyone from rock climbers to bird watchers," Monaco said.

Many ideas that are presented are dependent on wilderness protection law as well as other regulations.

"It's a delicate balancing act we have, of protecting this wilderness and having it available for the enjoyment of this and future generations," Brenner said.

The process of developing the general management plan was initially started in 1998, but was put on hold while the purchase of Pinnacles Ranch



Wild turkeys gather in a field at the Pinnacles National Monument.

Photo by: Nick Lovejoy, Staff Photographer



A succulent clings to the side of a cliff at the park.

Photo by: Nick Lovejoy, Staff Photographer

and campground was finalized.

The purchase of the ranch and campground brought 1,967 additional acres to the park as well as the addition of a campground, something the monument had not had for many years. Park officials recognized that this could greatly affect the management plan, so they postponed further discussion until after the sale was finalized, which happened in March of 2006.

Park officials are hoping for a large turnout at the meeting in Hollister.

"It's everybody's park, so we want them to take part," Brenner said. "It's the only national park site in many miles and it's a large part of the community."

Alice Joy covers education for the Free Lance. She can be reached at (831) 637-5566 ext. 336 or at ajoy@freelancenews.com.



Ron Williams makes his way through a cavern section on a trail at Pinnacles.

Photo by: Nick Lovejoy, Staff Photographer

Alice Joy

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HOLLISTER FREE LANCE

Pinnacles Will Run Campground

Saturday, June 02, 2007

By Michael Van Cassell (mvancassell@freelancenews.com)

Paicines - Pinnacles National Monument will take over operations of its only campground in March to bring the site up to national park standards.

The park purchased the privately owned Pinnacles Ranch, which includes the Pinnacles Campground, in March 2006. To keep the site open to the public, monument officials signed a temporary contract with its former managers.

Monument officials will begin operating the campground March 15, when that temporary contract runs out. Improvements should be completed within five years, and access to the campground will not be hindered, said Carl Brenner, the park's supervisor of interpretation and education.

"Give or take," Brenner said. "We're saying approximately five years because that's what we're guessing will take to completely renovate it."

Once the projects are completed, officials will find another managing group to operate the campground. Brenner said park officials are only interested in improving the campground.

Most of the work would be done during the monument's offseason so that revenue and camping would not be affected, Brenner said.

April and May are the park and campground's busiest months.

In those months, there were at least four weekends when all 157 camp sites were in use, Brenner said.

The park's fee structure will also change, but before the monument begins running the campground.

"We want all that worked out prior to the transition," Brenner said.

Current fees range from \$10 for one person to \$35 for six people.

Under the new fee structure, regardless of how many campers are using one site, the park will charge a flat fee of \$20 a night for nonreserved and \$23 for reserved camp sites.

Officials hope to be accepting reservations through the National Recreation Reservation System's Web site in fall.

As for immediate projects, more than \$200,000 in federal funding has been requested for campground improvements in 2008, Brenner said.

"Until the actual budget comes out, none of this is funded," Brenner said.

If approved in October, the funding would allow bathrooms and showers to be brought up to American Disability Act standards, as well as the repair and replacement of water lines and electrical systems and the controlling of evasive species, Brenner said.

Park officials also hope to replace the camp store's old and outdated exhibits.

"So that people have a better understanding of the park and area," Brenner said.

Michael Van Cassell

Michael Van Cassell covers public safety for the Free Lance. He can be reached at 831-637-5566 ext. 335.

HOLLISTER FREE LANCE

Pinnacles may receive \$2.6 million

Tuesday, November 23, 2004

By Karina Ioffe Staff Writer

Pinnacles National Monument- Nature lovers, rejoice.

Pinnacles National Monument, long a draw for campers, hikers, rock climbers and wildlife enthusiasts, is slated to get \$2.6 million of a \$388 billion federal appropriations bill awaiting President Bush's signature. The decision brings the park closer to its goal of purchasing the historic 2,000 acre Pinnacle Ranch, a move it has been planning for 10 years. The money would also add new hiking trails and make the campground public.

"This is land rich in wildlife diversity and a terrific piece of property," said Cicely Muldoon, Pinnacles National Monument Superintendent.

The Pinnacles Ranch acquisition has top priority among national parks projects on the West Coast and is considered the third most important in the country because of its unique history, according to Jessica Schafer, spokeswoman for U. S. Congressman Sam Farr.

If the purchase of the ranch is successful, Pinnacles would obtain more flat lands and new grassland and riparian areas, home to endangered species like the red-legged frog, said Muldoon.

However, the \$2.6 million is only half of the money necessary to purchase the historic property and the rest would only come late next year, from federal money appropriations, if it is approved.

The actual figure that the monument needs to raise is \$5.3 million, a hefty sum that will come, park staff are hoping, from private contributions. However, if the money is not approved or otherwise raised, chances are high Pinnacle Ranch, which dates back to late 19th century, would be sold to another owner. Under current zoning laws it could not be developed, but if the zoning is changed 40 acre parcels could be created.

"The owners (of the ranch) are committed to the deal, but they can't wait forever," said Muldoon.

More visitors have flocked to Pinnacles since California condors, an endangered species, have been released there last year. The move increased foot traffic in the first months of the condor release program by at least 18 percent. And while the numbers leveled off in subsequent months, the expansion of the park would help preserve the character of the monument and natural diversity, said the superintendent.

Muldoon and other staff at the monument have spent the past decade educating politicians about Pinnacles through briefing papers and numerous trips to Washington, D.C. and say the fact the project has come this far marks a huge expression of public commitment by the federal government.

Stu Kingman, one of the managing partners of Pinnacles Ranch, says he wants to see the land sold to the national parks system, but the money just isn't there to make it happen.

"We sold 600 acres to the park 30 years ago, but it was much easier then," said Kingman. "They don't spend money on parks anymore."

The ranch that, according to Kingman, has been there since "people settled the area," is situated on 13 parcels of land. It has unique grasses and wildlife and would make a natural addition to the park, said Kingman who lives and raises cattle on the ranch with his wife. "We've got the ecological balance they need."

"San Benito County is growing and we want to make sure the monument is protected," Schafer said. Farr was not available for comment.



Ultimately, the future of Pinnacles is in the hands of the federal government, which will make a decision about the remainder of the money in October of 2005. Until then, Kingman and park staff, must hope for the best.

"If we can make it happen, we'll preserve the character of this place - the dark skies, the quiet and the interesting history," said Muldoon.

Karina Ioffee writes about education for the Free Lance. Reach her at (831)637-5566 ext. 335 or kioffee@freelancenews.com

Karina Ioffee Staff Writer

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Deal will protect Central Coast oaks

February 08, 2005 | Scott Doggett

An oak woodland and portal to Pinnacles National Monument near Salinas is now off-limits to development under a \$5.3-million deal with the Nature Conservancy.

The 1,967-acre Pinnacles Ranch, featuring rolling grassland, streams, volcanic bluffs and habitat for condors, contains 700 acres of oak trees -- a threatened plant community in fast-growing Central California. The monument has only 40 acres of oak woodland.

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The purchase gives the National Park Service time to secure funding from Congress to add the land to the park. In the meantime, a campground on the ranch -- the only one to serve the monument -- remains open.

Officials released a dozen young condors at the monument over the last two years and plan to release six more this year. Golden eagles, peregrine falcons and bobcats also inhabit the area.

-- Scott Doggett

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THE GILROY DISPATCH

Condors to be released at Pinnacles

Thursday, October 28, 2004

By Staff Report

Park officials will release three additional California condors into the wild at Pinnacles National Monument today after postponing the release originally scheduled for Oct. 15.

This is only the second release of the endangered birds at the park. Project biologists anticipate releasing up to 30 condors at Pinnacle - an historic breeding ground for the massive birds - over the next several years. The reintroduction of California condors to Pinnacles National Monument is a cooperative effort between the Ventana Wilderness Society and the National Park Service in partnership with the California Condor Recovery Team.

"We are terrifically encouraged by the success of this first year," said Park Superintendent Cicely Muldoon. "The birds are thriving, the visitors are thrilled with routine condor sightings in the park, and we are proud to be a part of the recovery of this magnificent species."

The release was delayed after two of the wild condors were observed perching on local power poles in the last two weeks. Electrocutation and collisions with power lines historically have been significant threats to wild condors. Since the juvenile condors to be released are likely to mimic the behavior of the wild birds, biologists will recapture the two errant wild birds prior to releasing the new cohort of juvenile birds.

In addition, project staff will modify two of the flight pen support poles to more closely resemble local power poles, and to deliver a mild shock to condors that attempt to perch on them. This technique has proved successful in other release sites.

Six juvenile condors - five female and one male - will be set free in Pinnacles National Monument this fall, joining the park's five wild resident condors. Three birds will be released on Oct. 28, and the other three will remain in captivity for another one to two weeks to help ensure that the freeflying birds remain nearby for biologists to monitor.

The six juvenile condors are 16 to 18 months old and were hatched at the Los Angeles Zoo and the San Diego Wild Animal Park. They have been acclimating to their new home in a 20 foot by 40 foot flight pen at Pinnacles since their arrival at the site in spring, 2004. Sometime this winter, six more juvenile condors are expected to arrive at the Pinnacles. Those birds likely will be released in 2005.

The public is invited to attend the event and witness the release of the condors from a viewing area located about a mile from the facility at 11am today. The release will take place on the east side of the park off of Highway 25. Shuttle services from designated parking areas will transport guests to within a mile and a quarter of viewing area.

Guests unable to walk the remaining mile can request special assistance. Spotting scopes, binoculars, water, layered clothing and good hiking shoes are highly recommended.

Parking is limited, and is on a first come, first served basis.

Park officials recommend arriving by 9am. Rain will cancel the event.

Details of the event are available on the Pinnacles National Monument Web site at www.nps.gov/pinn or by calling (831) 389-4485 x 224.



Several Condors are perched on tree branches in a flight pen at the Pinnacles.

Photo by: Special to The Dispatch

Staff Report

THE GILROY DISPATCH

From beginner to expert: 10 hikes to free your soul

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Hikers in this area have many options to choose - from oaks to redwoods to meadows to streams and rivers. Whether you are interested in taking an extended lunch break or taking a backpacking trip, you will find what you are looking for a short drive away. From easy to difficult, the area has it all.

Pinnacles

One of the top places for people to hike is the Pinnacles National Monument located 45 minutes south of Hollister. With more than 30 miles of trails in 24,000 acres, Pinnacles offers hikes for all ability levels. The East District and the West District have different appeals. Both sides have flat open wilderness sections to hike through.

The more popular west side has a pair of hikes that rise 1,600 feet, but give the hiker great views. On the east side is the Famous Balconies Cave that hikers are urged to carry a flashlight through.

The Pinnacles also offers several moonlight hikes throughout the year. Park rangers encourage people to leave all cell phones behind to enjoy the serenity of the wilderness silence.

Henry Coe Park

Henry Coe State Park offers more than 250 miles of trails in more than 87,000 acres. There is always something new to explore on the trails and old ranch roads. Hikers can stroll through the mile and a half courses or venture out with backpacks on the loops of 50 miles. These trails, which go through some of the most rugged areas of the park, also are some of the most demanding.

There are two entrances to the park - the main entrance (off East Dunne in Morgan Hill) and one at Hunting Hollow (off Hot Springs Road). The Hunting Hollow section has hikes ranging from 7 to 11 miles around Grizzly Gulch. The main entrance has several shorter hikes.

Fremont Peak

Hikers that drive to the more than 3,100-foot high Fremont Peak State Park 11 miles south of San Juan Bautista are rewarded by breathtaking views of the valley. On a clear day, one can even see all the way to the ocean. It is also possible to see the Sierra Nevada Mountains on a cloudless day. There are four miles of moderate hiking around the area. Many amateur star gazers come up to take advantage of the nighttime viewing of the starlit sky.

- Uvas Canyon County Park

Uvas Canyon County Park, in the Santa Cruz Mountains west of Morgan Hill, offers 1,200 acres of wooded areas for hikers to explore. There are seven miles of moderate hiking trails. Hikers can walk the Waterfall Loop along Swanson Creek past several waterfalls.

- Hollister Hills

Located in the Gabilan Mountains, Hollister Hills State Vehicular Recreation Area in San Benito County offers some great hikes through hills and overhanging oaks. The 800-acre Upper Ranch area has about 24 miles of trails, and the 2,400-acre Lower Ranch has 64 miles of trails, including several hill climbs.

- Anderson Lake

Anderson Lake Park just east of Morgan Hill features several multi-use paths following Coyote Creek north for 15 miles to Coyote-Hellyer County Park in south San Jose. The paths are flat and are relatively easy treks. Many of the trails in the 2,365-acre park wind under Highway 101 and can be picked up at several different places. Rest areas and call boxes are provided along the trails.

- Mt. Madonna

Mt. Madonna County Park off Hecker Pass Highway west of Gilroy offers more than 20 miles of hikes in 3,219 acres among the towering redwoods. As hikers head toward the west, they will notice the scenery start to shift from redwoods to oaks to meadows. If you are feeling like Robin Hood, you can take a bow and arrows and shoot at the targets scattered along a mile trail through the woods.

- Big Basin

Big Basin Redwoods State Park, founded in 1902, is California's oldest state park. This park features more than 80 miles of trails northwest of Santa Cruz in 18,000 acres. The Sea Trail follows Waddell Creek down to the beach. There are also trails that connect Big Basin to Castle Rock.

The park features easy trails like the Redwood Trail and the Sequoia Trail, moderate trails that range from two to seven miles and a few more strenuous trails for the more advanced hiker. The advanced trails offer the widest scenic views and are great for people who want to spend the entire day hiking.

- Coyote Lake

Coyote Lake County Park in the Mount Hamilton Range foothills east of Gilroy offers scenic views of the water. When people are not busy fishing, they can hike the two trails around the lake. The short trails are perfect for a leisurely hike or jog.

- Calero

Located in the eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains northwest of Morgan Hill, Calero County Park offers an extensive group of hikes through the back country of the 2,421-acre park. There are 12 miles of hikes through the chaparral covered woodlands.

THE GILROY DISPATCH

Congress considers 1,700-acre expansion of the Pinnacles

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Hollister - The full U.S. Senate yesterday took up a bill that would provide \$3 million for the National Park Service to buy the Pinnacles Ranch property, with the goal of adding the 1,700-acre parcel to the adjacent Pinnacles National Monument.

The land is now held by the Nature Conservancy, which bought it in February to prevent it from being developed.

The ranch property, situated next to the east entrance of the park in San Benito County, currently houses the only campground serving the Monument.

The House has already passed its version of the bill, H.R. 2361, which originated in the Subcommittee for the Interior and Environment.

It includes \$40 million for all recreation land and investments.

The Senate version, debate on which continues today on the floor, provides for \$162 million, with specific "earmarks." California Sen. Diane Feinstein pushed for the inclusion of the \$3 million, as well as an additional \$4.7 million for a visitor's center.

Ideally, The Nature Conservancy would transfer the land to the Park Service within three years.

If the bill passes in the Senate, it will next be taken up in a conference committee, to reconcile the differences between the two proposals.

"Usually something like this isn't too controversial," said Jessica Schaffer, Rep. Sam Farr's press secretary. "But it depends on how the other bills in conference are looking, where the money's going."

The property in question is often cited as crucial for the rehabilitation of the California Condor, which were released into the wild near the Pinnacles in 2002.

Without Park Service protection, hunting could resume on the property. The condor is known to be susceptible to lead poisoning from carrion left by hunters.

Scott Gerber, Sen. Feinstein's spokesman, described Feinstein as "confident" the money would survive the conference committee. If all goes well, he predicts that President Bush could sign the bill into law as early as October.

Congressman Sam Farr, who represents all of San Benito County, got the appropriations ball rolling, and worked with Sen. Feinstein to get the money into the senate version of the bill.

"Acquiring the Pinnacles Ranch for the Pinnacles National Monument has been a high priority for both me and the Administration," said Farr in a press release. "I'm very happy to hear that Senator Feinstein has been able to insert the rest of the needed funds into this year's Interior Department spending bill, especially since the House version did not allow such earmarks."

"We're thrilled about this," said Schaffer. "The Pinnacles is much-loved by many people, and we have a lot of support up in Washington."

By Danielle Smith. Erin Musgrave contributed to this report.

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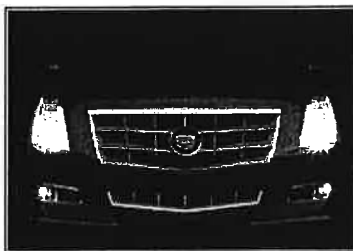


Cadillac CTS Redefined with New Powertrains

by Bob Plunkett

Pinnacles, Calif. — California 146. The appropriately labeled Pinnacles Highway is two lanes of blacktop pointing into the beautiful Pinnacles Wilderness where gnarly spires of granite spike the horizon.

It's a narrow road winding around lumpy hills where — on one particular day — there's not another vehicle in sight to impede our freewheeling ride on the quick side of automotive performance in a new sports touring sedan that's well equipped for the task of tracking quickly, but adeptly, through so many curves.



The new 2008 Cadillac CTS — rising off a rigid platform with pliable independent suspension components pinned above every wheel — also carries a forceful aluminum engine that translates all torque through a six-speed manual gearbox and sends it to the rear wheels in classic, and highly predictable and controllable, front-engine/rear-drive arrangement.

With its wide track and squatty stance, the knife-edge sharp skin of the CTS ripples over wheelwells and amplifies a blunt in-your-face prow capped by a toothy grille. This four-door sportster seems like it could out-run the wind and finesse any twisty road course it comes across.

Odds are favorable that it can easily accomplish those feats and more because the agile sedan setting a lickety-split time over the Pinnacles Highway is the latest iteration of CTS, the mid-size sports touring sedan from Cadillac.

This car made history in 2003 as the first rear-wheel-drive (RWD) vehicle in Cadillac's fleet since 1979, and the first stocking a manual transmission for a RWD Caddy in half a century.

For 2008, a make-over for Generation 2.0 of CTS brings fresh package styling with a brash front grille patterned after the Cadillac Sixteen concept car. The new CTS also scores a wheeltrack that's two inches wider, with traction in conventional RWD or on-demand, all-wheel-drive (AWD). It's two powertrain choices culminate with a forceful new direct-injection V6. We'll enumerate the mechanical equipment, but first let's check out that new package styling.

The lines are bold and sharp, but also clean with unique forms

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marked by angular shapes and crisp edges. The sedan's aggressive face features a prominent horizontal louver panel in modern interpretation of the Cadillac egg-crate grille and piercing optics with stacked round high-intensity discharge (HID) xenon lamps that swivel in concert with the vehicle's front wheels.



Flanks are sheer below knife-edge shoulders and interrupted only by fenders flaring around some big wheelwells. The CTS wheels stand near front and rear corners, leaving curt overhangs at the prow and tail. The fender slats are designed to dissipate hot air below the hood. The Cadillac's roofline

remains low, canting in front in line with the windshield and rolling back with blacked-out center pillars, simulating a coupe's canopy.

Tail treatment for the CTS shows a slick slab bumper in monochrome flanked by tall vertical taillamps — a Cadillac hallmark — with twin round pipes in chrome protruding below the bumper. Inside a spacious cabin with seating for five, the exterior theme of chiseled forms and angular features is expressed in a monochromatic treatment with hand-cut, hand-sewn and hand-wrapped surfaces.

Vivid analog instruments are housed in three tubular binnacles and the dashboard center stack of controls is trimmed in a high-tech satin metallic finish or genuine Sapele Pommele wood.

Front bucket seats, heated and ventilated, are contoured to fit the body with firm side bolsters to hold you in place during quick-cut pavement maneuvers. The soft leather upholstery comes with French stitching, which also shows up on the instrument panel, door inserts and shifter boot.

The CTS is packed with extensive safety measures including air bags surrounding front-seat riders, which stretch like curtains in concealment above front and rear side windows.

The four-wheel disc brakes score big high-performance aluminum brake calipers and link electronically to an anti-lock brake system (ABS) and traction control system (TCS) with GM's StabiliTrak skid controls. Steering, through a rack and pinion device enhanced by a variable-assist power system, feels dead-on precise and entirely quick in response.

The powertrain options begin with the base aluminum 3.6-liter V6 rigged with dual overhead cams and VVT (variable valve timing). This plant generates 263 horsepower at 6,200 rpm with the torque pushed to 253 lb-ft at 3,100 rpm. The standard transmission is a smooth-to-shift six-speed manual gearbox made by Aisin, the AY6. Also available is the electronically controlled six-speed automatic, GM's Hydra-Matic 6L50.

Optional power comes from a direct-injection version of the dual-cam 3.6-liter VVT V6, which generates the power of a V8 with better fuel economy numbers. With direct injection, the fuel goes directly into the engine's combustion chamber and fosters a thorough burn of the mix of air and fuel.

The top V6 for the CTS makes 304 horsepower at 6,300 rpm, with the torque peaking to 293 lb-ft at 5,200 rpm. With the base V6 aboard, the CTS works in RWD or AWD mode. However, with the direct-injection V6, only RWD applies.

Designers of the CTS 2.0 conspired with the engineers who developed the iPod as well as computer and entertainment experts. The outcome of this planning is a center console for



that's geared to work seamlessly with iPods, MP3 players and other digital music devices. You can even recharge an iPod or MP3 player from the USB port.

An optional 40 GB hard drive enables pause-and-rewind of a live radio program, or ripping tracks from CDs. Also, the available Bose 5.1 Cabin Surround premium audio kit is a 300-watt, 10-speaker system that incorporates Bose Centerpoint technology and enables two-channel audio information.

Cadillac establishes MSRP figures for the 2008 CTS beginning at \$32,245 for the base engine with RWD format and manual shifter. Add the automatic transmission and the MSRP rises to \$34,545. Packaged equipment brings more gear for more dollars — a Luxury Collection, Premium Luxury Collection, Performance Collection, Luxury Level One and Luxury Level Two.

2008 Cadillac CTS Sedan

Description:	Mid-size sports touring sedan
Model options:	CTS
Wheelbase:	113.4 inches
Overall length:	191.6 inches
Engine size:	DOHC 3.6-L V6 VVT/PFI, DOHC 3.6-L V6 VVT/DI
Transmissions/speeds:	Manual/6/AY6, Auto/6/6L50
Rear/front drive:	RWD, AWD
Steering:	Power rack and pinion
Braking:	Power 4-disc, <u>ABS</u> /TCS/StabiliTrak
Air bags:	2 (front), 2 (side), 4 (side curtain)
EPA mileage est. city/hwy:	V6 PFI - 18/26 <u>mpg</u> , V6 -17/26 mpg
MSRP:	CTS RWD M/6 - \$ 32,245, CTS RWD A/6 - \$ 34,545

Learn more about the [2008 Cadillac CTS Sedan](#).

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HOLLISTER FREE LANCE

Pinnacles Ranch Protected Forever

Tuesday, May 02, 2006

Nature lovers and environmentalists gave a collective sigh of relief last week, as the final touches to the drawn out process of transferring the 1,967 acre Pinnacles Ranch to the National Park Service finished with a dedication ceremony.

For more than a decade, it was feared the land adjacent to the Pinnacles National Monument would fall into the hands of developers after it was divided among the relatives of owners, Peggy and Stu Kingman, after they passed away. The Kingmans sought to sell their ranch for years, and as the National Parks Service searched for funds, it appeared as though the unique opportunity to expand the Pinnacles was slipping away. At least until the Nature Conservancy rode in on a white horse with about \$2.6 million to put down on the land while U.S. Congressman Sam Farr and Senator Dianne Feinstein wrangled in Washington for another \$3 million.

The patience of the Kingmans and tenacity of Farr and Feinstein are the only reason this special plot of land now lies in the hands of the people in perpetuity - exactly where it belongs. The Kingmans always wanted to sell their land to the Pinnacles and the satisfaction of seeing it all work out was present on their faces last week.

More importantly, however, is the fact that the popular park now has more habitat for the local wildlife, including the California Condor, that calls the Pinnacles home. Development so close to the scavanging bird could have been disastrous, especially for young birds just learning how to fly. Scientists have documented how the birds often eat discarded trash such as bottle caps while they are learning how to forage. Now with the Pinnacles still isolated from most human impacts, the young birds who fly with a limited range won't have human garbage nearby to teach them bad habits.

And, the new land has added benefits for residents and visitors as well. The 120-site campground will remain open for campers and the park will add another 700 acres of woodland, as part of 1,967 acres, to the 24,000 acres that already comprise the monument.

Home to bobcats, deer, 148 species of birds including golden eagles, and thousands of types of insects, the Pinnacles is simply too important and too special of a place to lose just for dollars. We're glad everyone involved in this deal realized that one simple fact.

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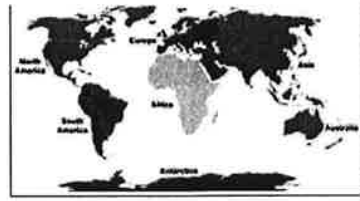
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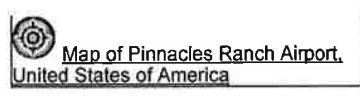
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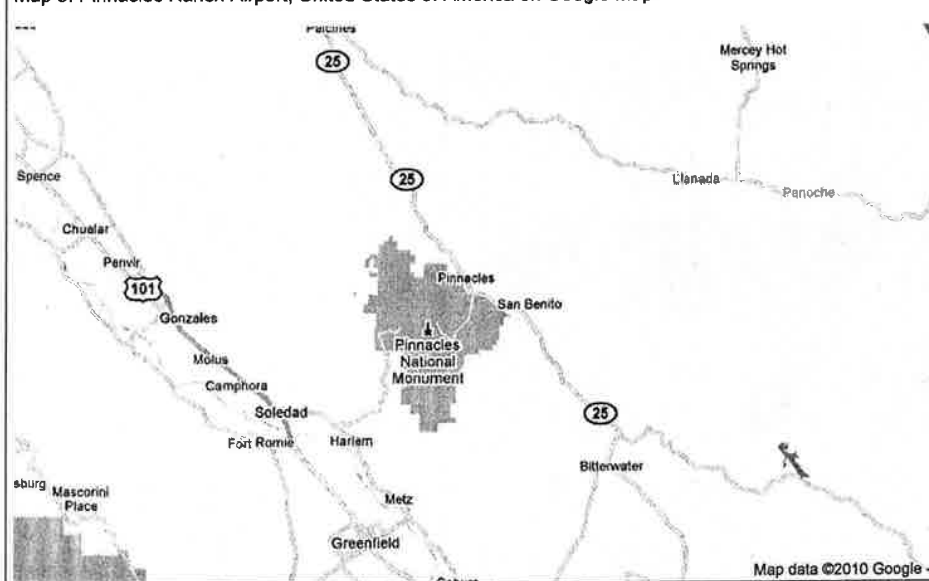
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Pinnacles

Jill K. Robinson, Special to The Chronicle
Sunday, March 21, 2010



The towering spires and ramparts of Pinnacles National Monument are a big pocket of surreal, as if they fell from an imaginary world onto these rolling chaparral-covered hills. In reality, they're what's left of a volcano commuting north - really slowly.

The Miocene-era Neenach Volcano, which originated 195 miles to the southeast, straddles the San Andreas Fault. Every time the Pacific Plate creeps north, it pulls the volcano's remains along on its journey. Adding to the geologic forces, erosion helped create the eerie-looking monoliths and crags of Pinnacles National Monument.

The park's west entrance is 14 miles from the town of Soledad in Monterey County. Soledad's location along Highway 101 is convenient for travelers to get in and out of the area quickly - much faster than a volcano. A view of the striking stone faces begins well before you reach the Pinnacles gate. Don't stop to take pictures here, because it gets better. The west side offers spectacular views of the rock formation, even from your car window in the parking lot.

Most visitors enter Pinnacles via the main entrance on the east side of the Galiban Range (near Hollister) for convenient access to the park's only campground, but there are plenty of overlooked attractions on the Soledad side if you don't mind sleeping outside the park - and in a really nice bed.

Also, the park entrance on the Soledad side is convenient to a few rural, low-frills attractions, including an overlooked mission and some underrated wineries. Who needs a campground, anyway?

Why now? The best time to visit the 26,000-acre Pinnacles is during spring and fall, while temperatures are moderate. In the spring, every bend in the trail reveals hillsides draped in wildflowers - from the tangerine Fire Poppy to the amethyst Fremont's Monkeyflower. In early spring, the Balconies Cliffs and the High Peaks are lush showcases for wildflowers.

The backstory: Intermittently occupied by Indian groups (Chalone and Mutsun) in its earlier days, Pinnacles was established as a national monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. The area became a part of the California Condor Recovery Program in 2003, and conservationists estimate there are 26 condors in the park.

Spend your day: For hiking, choose between the steep Juniper Canyon Loop (which runs through the spires of the High Peaks Trail, home to a handful of California condors) and the rolling Balconies Cave Trail (which leads to one of the park's two talus caves). Adventure seekers can easily cover both in a day. California history fans can make a short stop at the Soledad Mission on the way home. Nicknamed "the lonely mission" ("soledad" is Spanish

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for "solitude"), many of the original buildings for housing and workshops are now ruins. The mission's chapel and one section of the quadrangle have been restored.

Dining: If park visitors don't pack food, the closest place for meals is back in Soledad. Mariscos Puerto Nuevo is a small restaurant in a large shopping mall; its huge fresh seafood dishes are priced reasonably and well worth a taste. I did a double take when I noticed that a hot-sauce-drizzled shrimp accompanied the slice of lime atop my bottle of beer - but it didn't last long. After my hours of hiking, I was ravenous.

Don't miss: A stop to taste wine at Chalone Vineyard, another way to experience the area's geologic forces. The remote vineyard is in the Gavilan Mountain range on limestone-rich soil - so distinct that it was given its own American Viticulture Area (AVA) status. The 2006 Estate Condor Blend is produced in honor of the gigantic birds, and \$5 from the sale of each bottle goes to the Ventana Wildlife Society.

Don't bother: Hiking to the Balconies Cave just after a major rainstorm, unless you have tall boots for wading.

Word to the wise: There is no concession stand at the west entrance of the park, so bring your own water.

If you go

Getting there

Pinnacles National Monument: Take Highway 146 east from Soledad for 14 miles; (831) 389-4485; www.nps.gov/pinn. Gate open 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. The \$5 entrance fee covers seven consecutive days of visits. Leave the RVs at home; Highway 146 is narrow and winding. No road connects the west and east entrances.

Where to stay

Inn at the Pinnacles: 32025 Stonewall Canyon Road. (831) 678-2400, www.innatthepinnacles.com. The Mediterranean-style inn is set among the Brosseau Vineyards, with a view of Pinnacles National Monument. Each of the six rooms has a different theme - named after local wildflowers and plants. Rates start at \$200 a night.

Best Western Valley Harvest Inn: 1155 Front St. (831) 678-3833, www.valleyharvestinn.com. Comfortable 60-room motel with swimming pool and family restaurant. Rates from \$99 a night.

Dining

Mariscos Puerto Nuevo: 3022H De La Rosa Sr. St. (831) 678-9234. This restaurant's menu includes gigantic fresh seafood dishes. Pacifico beers come with a slice of lime and a shrimp drizzled with hot sauce.

La Fuente: 101 Oak St. (831) 678-3130. With a bright, cheery Mexican décor, La Fuente features all-day breakfast, super burritos and full dinners.

What to do

Pinnacles Star Party: Offered only at the west entrance's Chaparral Parking Lot. Park rangers host the party, featuring local astronomers with telescopes. Next date: March 19, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Check with the park for future star party dates and times.

Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad: 36641 Fort Romie Road. (831) 678-2586. Founded in 1791, the Soledad Mission is 13th in the chain of 21 Alta California missions. The grounds included a vineyard, a possible beginning to Soledad's wine country.

Chalone Vineyard: Stonewall Canyon Road and Highway 146. (831) 678-1717, www.chalonevineyard.com. Chalone is the oldest producing vineyard in Monterey County, and its label is a silhouette of Pinnacles National Monument.

More information

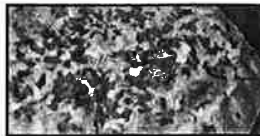
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Freelance writer Jill K. Robinson last wrote for Travel on Lodi. E-mail comments to travel@sfchronicle.com.

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Funds for Pinnacles visitor center were shifted from trail projects

3 votes

Mar 10, 2010

By McClatchy-Tribune News Service

By Daniel Lopez

The plan to build two trails at Pinnacles National Monument with federal stimulus money has been pulled and replaced with other improvement projects at the park, the National Park Service announced recently.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding was approved in 2009 for projects at Pinnacles that included building an overlook trail and connector trail to the West Pinnacles visitor station. The trail construction will not take place because it can't be completed within the required timeliness of the recovery act, the park service said.



Instead, the park service said, the money will be used to demolish and relocate the maintenance and visitor facilities on the west side of the park, which are prone to flooding, and to demolish and replace two trailers and a tent cabin.

Carl Brenner, chief of instruction and education at Pinnacles, said officials have sought to replace and move the buildings on the park's west side since the 1990s. They sit in the floodplain and have been damaged several times.

About 30 percent of the visitors to Pinnacles enter from the Salinas Valley on the monument's west side, and Brenner said it is important they have facilities.

The estimated project cost is \$9 million to \$13 million, because of specific materials requirements and because the new buildings will have solar panels and other technology - allowing them to be off the power grid, Brenner said.

Park officials expect a contract to be awarded in May, with work to begin in June. Federal funds require the project to be completed in 18 months, Brenner said.

The National Park Service said that nationwide, 26 projects are being replaced with 36 others for numerous reasons, including project deadline requirements and because some projects have been completed.

At Pinnacles, other projects that are being funded include repair of 32 miles of fence to protect resources, and construction of fencing and removal of feral pigs to protect sensitive park land, Brenner said.

Some fencing will be built around land from the former Kingman Ranch that was added to the park in 2006. The nearly 2,000 acres include the Pinnacles Campground, Brenner said.

The trail project remains a priority and may be completed with other funds, he said.

The park service also announced funding for 30 "high priority" projects around the country. The park service said it is able to fund additional projects because lower construction costs provided a savings of \$129 million.

"We are extremely excited to have the opportunity to do so much more with our Recovery Act funding than we originally planned," Jon Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, said in a news release.

The park service said it received \$750million of the \$3billion in stimulus funds awarded the Department of the Interior.

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

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Public Comments Inform Pinnacles Planning Effort



Pinnacles Centennial Celebration.



Early Park Development, 1933.



California Condor.

Letter from the Superintendent:

Dear Friends,

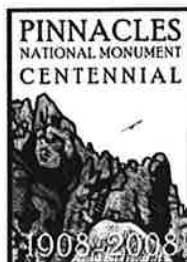
In our last newsletter we asked for your thoughts on the future of Pinnacles as we launched our General Management Plan (GMP). Many of you picked up those newsletters, attended the meetings we hosted, filled out comment forms, and sent us letters and e-mails. We appreciate the many thoughtful comments you offered, and your interest in this park. This newsletter contains a summary of what we heard from you, as well as information about what to expect next in the GMP process. You will next hear from us in late spring or early summer when we will present a range of preliminary management alternatives for your review and comment.

As always, much is happening at Pinnacles National Monument:

Celebrating 100 Years: On January 16 we formally celebrated the centennial of the monument – in 1908, local residents convinced President Theodore Roosevelt to sign a proclamation establishing Pinnacles National Monument. We will be celebrating all year with a series of events that highlight the legacy of local initiative and support that was instrumental in the preservation of Pinnacles. You can find more information on our centennial events at www.nps.gov/pinn/parkmgmt/centennial.htm.

Visitor Center relocation: We have moved our primary east side visitor center from the stone building in Bear Gulch to the camp store building at the campground entrance. This change enables us to provide visitor information closer to the entrance of the park, in a less congested area, with more parking. The old visitor center will continue to be operated as the Bear Gulch Nature Center, which will be open when staffing is available.

Changes at the campground: Management of Pinnacles Campground is also changing. Some facilities have been upgraded, and we have a new reservation system. Please visit www.recreation.gov or call (877)444-6777 for campground reservations.



The staff, volunteers and partners at Pinnacles continue to work to protect the spectacular rock formations and native ecosystems in the park, and to provide a rewarding visitor experience. We hope you will continue to participate in the GMP planning process, and we look forward to seeing you at Pinnacles this season.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Brunnemann, Superintendent

Pinnacles National Monument Foundation Statement

The park's foundation statement records our shared understanding of why the park was created, and what resources and values we must protect. In the last newsletter, we published draft statements about Pinnacles' purpose and significance, and we asked for your feedback. Based on your responses, we have made some minor changes. The revised statements about Pinnacles' purpose and significance are below. We will use these statements to guide the development of the general management plan.

Park Purpose: *The purpose of Pinnacles National Monument is to protect the volcanic Pinnacle Rocks formation, talus caves, associated lands and ecosystems for their scientific, educational and cultural values, by caring for their natural processes and wild character and providing opportunities for public enjoyment and understanding of these resources.*

Pinnacles National Monument is nationally significant because:

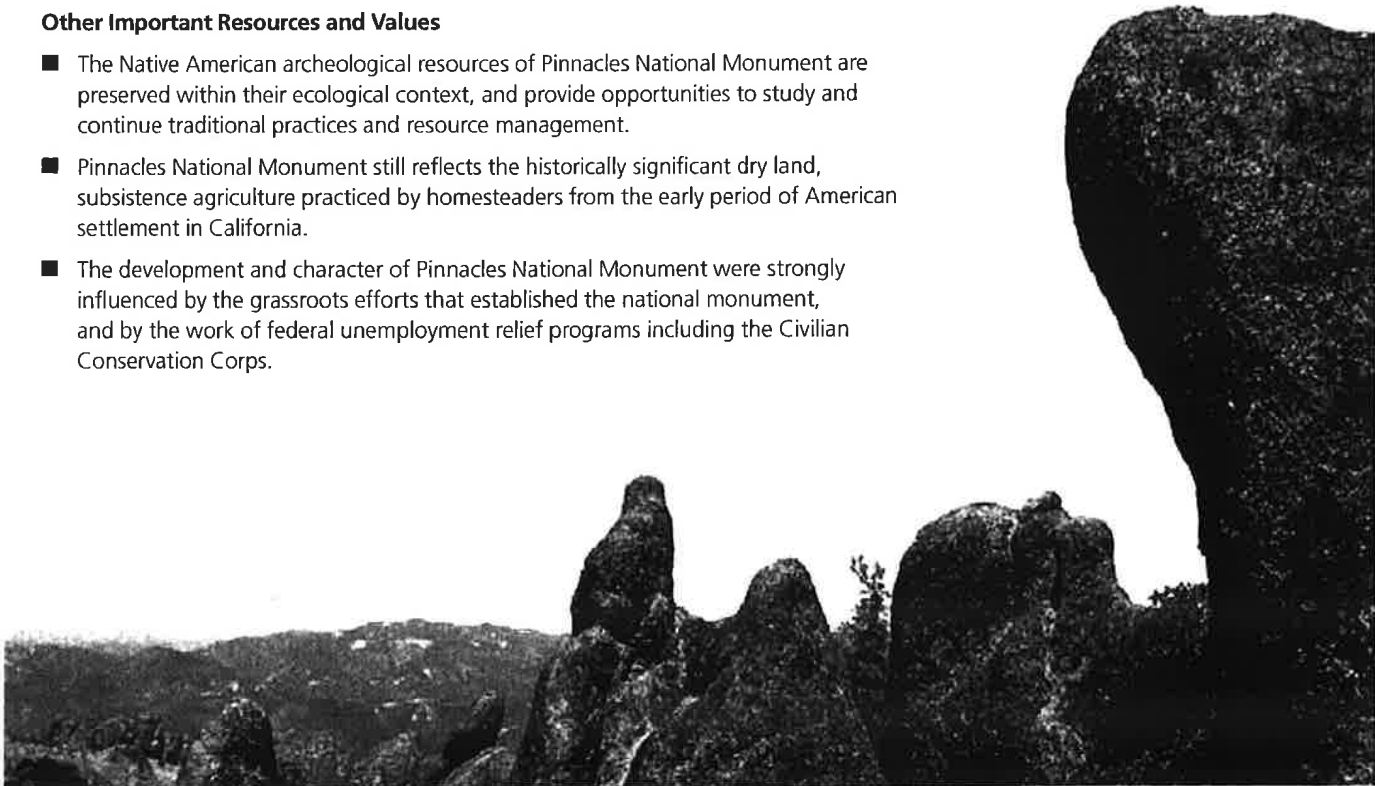
- Pinnacles National Monument contains a remnant of an ancient stratovolcano that was split by the movement of two continental plates and provided key evidence for the theory of plate tectonics.
- Pinnacles National Monument contains the most extensive assemblage of rare talus caves within the National Park System and cares for the natural processes and ecosystems within.
- Pinnacles Wilderness protects the natural character of central California's native ecosystems and provides opportunities to experience wildness in an area of expanding urban development.
- Intact ecological processes and communities of Pinnacles National Monument, including oak savanna, riparian and chaparral ecosystems, provide a refuge for the exceptionally diverse native flora and fauna within the Gabilan ecoregion.

Other Important Resources and Values

- The Native American archeological resources of Pinnacles National Monument are preserved within their ecological context, and provide opportunities to study and continue traditional practices and resource management.
- Pinnacles National Monument still reflects the historically significant dry land, subsistence agriculture practiced by homesteaders from the early period of American settlement in California.
- The development and character of Pinnacles National Monument were strongly influenced by the grassroots efforts that established the national monument, and by the work of federal unemployment relief programs including the Civilian Conservation Corps.



Pinnacles public meeting.



Summary of Public Comments for the General Management Plan

The Pinnacles National Monument General Management Plan (GMP) team launched the GMP planning process in the spring of 2007 by asking for your thoughts, ideas, and concerns about what should be addressed in the GMP. The team distributed newsletters in English and Spanish, hosted four public meetings and held additional meetings with various stakeholder groups and community organizations. Pinnacles received 110 written comments, and also incorporated comments from the 1998 GMP start-up and from Pinnacles staff. Thanks to all of you who took the time to share your thoughts with us. Your participation strengthens the planning process and helps to ensure that the GMP will serve the values of the people who love and use the park.

The following section includes a summary of issues and concerns raised during the scoping public comment period, organized by topic. The summary reflects the wide range and diversity of comments received. Issues that received the greatest number of comments include: ideas about visitor education programs and interpretation opportunities; rock climbing management approaches; support for protection of cultural and natural resources; preservation of wilderness-related values; support for outreach to communities, tribes, landowners, and schools; and ideas for visitor services and transportation, particularly on the west side and on the newly acquired Pinnacles Ranch.

Natural Resource Management

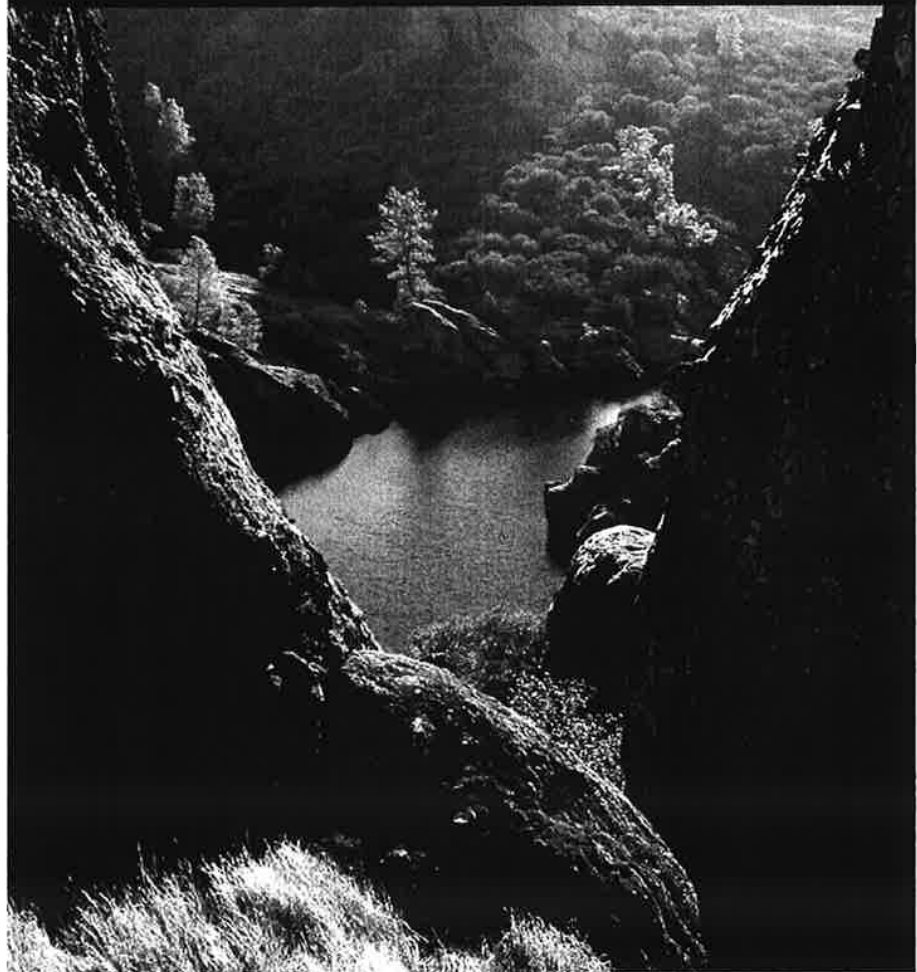
Wildlife

- Protect raptors, other birds, tarantulas, bees, and deer, as well as endangered species such as the California condor and the Townsend big-eared bat.
- Pinnacles Ranch lands have been farmed, so less constraints regarding threatened and endangered species.
- Limit access to certain areas or activities to protect wildlife. Sensitivity to nesting raptors, condors, and bats is a priority.
- Keep closures to a minimum.
- Provide condor sighting opportunities and owl walks.
- Establish active monitoring programs.
- Concerned about reintroduction of bears.
- Keep non-native red foxes out.

Geologic Features

- Do not close caves. Visitors are responsible for their own safety.
- Make better use of Balconies Caves

The General Management Plan (GMP) will describe the long term vision for Pinnacles National Monument and will guide the park's management and development for the next 15-20 years.



Bear Gulch Reservoir.

A Summary of What We Heard From You, continued

- Reexamine cave management policies
- Geologic formations are important resources for visitors and climbers.

Native Plants

- Restore native plant communities through fire, reintroductions, and/or plantings.
- Manage for the health of plant communities and wildlife will benefit.
- Lichens are important park resources.
- Need standards and guidelines for identification and protection.

Invasive Species

- Eradicate non-native species such as feral pigs and noxious weeds.
- Experiment with grazing at Pinnacles Ranch to remove exotics.
- Allow feral pig hunts.
- Expand the pig fence to include newly acquired lands.
- Pig fences are unnecessary.
- Focus on developing the most cost-effective control methods through research and monitoring.
- Consider weed spread in all project planning documents.

Fire

- Use prescribed and natural fires to restore and protect native vegetation.
- Minimize the impacts of fire suppression.
- Prevent fires by reducing fuel loads, especially on the west side, and maintaining fire breaks.
- Ensure visitor safety during fire events with evacuation plans and fire shelters.

Air Quality

- Clean air should be a management priority.
- Concerned about air pollution from increased traffic.
- Don't restrict visitor use based on minor air quality impacts.



Butterfield Homestead.



Gray Pine, *Pinus sabineana*.



North Wilderness Trail.

Cultural Resource Management

Cultural and Historic Resources

- Develop standards and guidelines to protect and interpret historic structures, artifacts, and cultural landscapes, including the recently acquired homesteads. Emphasize prehistoric use, the Spanish period, pioneer history, banditos in the caves, Mission 66, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and ranching.
- Interpret homestead sites that predate the park.
- Maintain CCC structures.
- Use grazing as part of the cultural landscape.
- Update the list of classified structures and upgrade the storage of and access to museum collections.
- Increase the funding and staffing devoted to the protection and interpretation of cultural resources, including Native American sites and stories.
- Reuse historic structures in ways that best preserve them.
- North Chalone fire tower is now eligible for National Register of Historic Places.
- Establish a cultural management division.

Native Americans

- Partner with the Amah Mutsun tribe for assistance with interpretation and documentation of traditional practices, including native plant uses.
- Protect Native American sites and acquire additional nearby sites.
- Restore a Native American condor ceremony.
- Document and interpret the relationships between prehistoric and historic land uses.
- Create a Native American or ethnographic management district.
- Hire a Native American specialist.
- Use the San Diego County Master Plan as a model for cultural resource information.

Visitor Use, Experience, and Facilities

Hiking

- Build new trails utilizing recently acquired lands, accommodating multiple user types, and making connections between existing facilities.
- Need comprehensive trail planning.
- Use new trails to disperse crowds away from core areas.
- Improve existing trails including providing accessibility, interpretive elements, signage, and access to restrooms and water.
- Keep the trail system unchanged.
- New trails should have few structures and cause minimum impact. Minimize signage on trails and climbing routes.
- Specific ideas for trails include paved accessible trails at Pinnacles Ranch, short viewpoint trails, self-guided trails, pig fence trail, McCabe Canyon, Bear Valley, airstrip ADA trail, homesteading sites, south wilderness loop, campground connector, Mt. Defiance, Old Pinnacles ADA segment, connecting the high peaks with the new visitor center, and more west side trails.

Bike and Equestrian Trails

- Prohibit or limit horseback riding and/or mountain biking on trails due to resource impacts and use conflicts.
- Allow horseback riding and/or mountain biking, especially on the newly acquired ranchlands, along roadways, and in previously impacted areas.
- Provide horse and/or bicycle rentals.
- Make the park more bicycle-friendly to draw people out of their vehicles and speed up travel.

Climbing

- Rock climbing is an important and historic activity at the park. Pinnacles provides a unique climbing experience.
- Need climbing safety regulations.
- Additional restrictions are not necessary. Climbers are responsible stewards and impacts are negligible compared to other uses.
- Address big group policies and bolting practices, especially in wilderness areas.
- Develop a process for permitting new routes.
- Maintain and formalize access trails.
- Partner with climbing groups to maintain trails, establish routes, and formulate policy.
- Seek comments from Bay Area climbers.

Value of the Natural Setting

- Keep the park natural and pristine.
- Protect dark skies.
- Preserve the natural quiet and peacefulness. Address noise from large groups and the campground.
- Park visitors value the wildlife diversity, solitude, clean air, scenery, historic buildings, trails, and wilderness.

Wilderness

- Protect wilderness values, including solitude, scenery, and wildlife habitat.
- Create a wilderness management plan.
- Manage newly acquired lands as wilderness.
- Study and propose additional wilderness designations. Consider designating all undeveloped land as wilderness.
- Protect the wilderness characteristics of backcountry areas adjacent to designated wilderness.
- Do not designate newly acquired lands as wilderness, keeping management options flexible.

Crowding and Carrying Capacity

- Limit large groups due to noise and resource impacts.
- Create a new contact station and/or relocate visitor center to relieve congestion and impacts in core of the park.



School group at Bear Gulch Reservoir.



Camping at Pinnacles National Monument.



West side trailhead and parking.



Pinnacles Ranch, Bacon Homestead.

A Summary of What We Heard From You, continued

- Control crowding by establishing carrying capacities and reservation systems as necessary.
- Use parking availability to control overuse.
- Disperse visitors to newly acquired lands and Chalone area.

Park Hours

- After-hours use may discourage illegal activity.
- Consider providing evening programs.
- Keep park as day-use only to benefit wildlife.

Education and Interpretation

- Use living history and adaptive reuse of historic structures to interpret CCC structures.
- Link natural resources with cultural interpretation. Construct an ethnobotanical trail or garden.
- Explore the use of technology to expand educational services, including virtual field trips, videos, and slide shows.
- Displays should be accessible.
- Promote amateur astronomy.
- Minimize the visual impact of interpretive signs and displays.
- Emphasize education and expand partnerships with educational institutions and other agencies and parks.
- Expand educational services to off-site programming and curriculum

development, including for home schools.

- Ideas for new opportunities include providing a roster of on-duty specialists, career and life choice education, and more mid-week programming, as well as interpreting cultural sites and facilitating student research.
- Focus interpretation efforts on Native American history, cultural sites, homesteading history, resource stewardship, chaparral, sensitive species, invasive species, wilderness philosophy/use, and/or reaching children.
- Establish a learning center or conference/training facility.
- Establish educational facilities on the west side.
- Have public meetings to discuss park management.

Diverse Communities

- Engage in “common ground” projects with diverse cultural groups.
- Provide programming, maps, and displays in multiple languages.
- Establish a satellite presence in local communities through media, events, or a mobile information center.
- Address the interests, needs, and perspectives of multiple cultures.

Ranger-led Programs

- Provide more programming on the west side, including night hikes.
- Keep ranger programs and visitor center in Bear Gulch.
- Use the Pinnacles Ranch for a small contact facility and guided walks.
- Provide more scheduled guided walks with rangers, including at the Pinnacles Ranch. Provide interactions with botanists.

Camping

- Consider backcountry camping. This could include a permit system.
- Backcountry camping will require more staff.
- The fire tower at North Chalone, the west side, and the old campground are possible low-impact camping areas. Only allow in the less sensitive areas.
- Provide youth group camping opportunities. Designate youth group sites at the existing campground, the Soledad picnic area, or the fire tower.
- Continue to allow camping on the east side. Current campground is quiet and convenient.
- Keep the campground store and pool open.
- Reconfigure the east side campground for efficient use of space, restoration of riparian areas, or to create a simpler, less expensive campground.
- Reestablish walk-in campsite access.
- Address campground noise and lack of privacy between sites.

A Summary of What We Heard From You, continued

- Upgrade facilities with food storage boxes, shade structures, and/or separate RV sites with water and electricity.
- Construct a new campground on the west side similar to the previous low-impact site.
- Don't replace west side campground in the floodplain.
- Keep camping out of the west side to preserve peace and quiet.
- Create backcountry/walk-in camping opportunities at both park entrances and front country camping at Pinnacles Ranch.
- Provide overflow camping and picnic areas for busy periods.
- Expanding overnight use would cause less impact by reducing day trips.
- Assess camping fees "per site", not per person.
- Provide advance reservations of campsites.
- Establish a west side community advisory group.
- Provide more visitor services on the west side, including more parking.
- Consider placing some visitor services in Soledad.
- Consider additional visitor experiences on the west side such as group picnicking, camping, learning, and accessibility.
- Give greater attention to invasive plants, ecological conditions, viewsheds, and/or law enforcement
- The higher population on the west side creates more opportunities for education and partnerships.
- Complete west side developments from previous plans.
- Park rangers should live on premises for visitor safety.

Pinnacles Ranch

- Disperse visitor use by creating new trails, including paved accessible and historical interpretation trails.
- Provide picnicking with shade structures near the homestead sites.
- Consider a new campground.
- Preserve Butterfield and Bacon homesteads as cultural landscapes.
- Replant valley oaks and native grasses.
- Keep airstrip. Add helicopter pad for emergencies.
- Conduct "early California" cultural landscape inventory.
- Remove structures without visitor use or resource management potential.



Park shuttle.

Other Park Facilities

- Consider amphitheater in Condor Gulch.
- Encourage family gatherings with group picnic areas.
- Address parking to prevent congestion.
- Need more benches and interpretive displays. Picnic areas need shade.
- Redesign Peak's view picnic area. Reopen Chalone picnic area.
- Improve and/or provide restroom facilities at group sites, popular sites, the reservoir, and in the backcountry.
- Replace portable toilets with composting/vault systems.
- Need cell phone support.
- Develop a refuse transfer station for the area.
- Need trash receptacles.
- Upgrade water supply. Provide water at Chalone picnic area.
- Do not chlorinate water.
- Treat sewage outside of park.

General

- More concessions lead to more congestion.
- Do not allow motorized recreation.
- Revisit pet policy.
- Don't allow dogs in the park.
- Provide new and diverse activities, especially on acquired lands
- Designate areas for photography and wildlife viewing.
- Consider organized sporting activities.



West side parking lot.

Visitor Center

- Expand visitor center offerings and space.
- Put a visitor center on each side of the park.
- No need for a grandiose visitor center.
- Move east side visitor center to park entrance to provide information at initial contact.
- Locate visitor center(s) with goal of dispersing visitors.
- Locate west side visitor center toward park boundary.
- Concerned about the impact of the planned west side visitor center on the meadow and wildlife habitat.
- Improve the visitor center(s) to accommodate more services, including ranger-guided services, accessibility, and environmental education facilities.
- Keep Bear Gulch visitor center as an information center.

West Side

- Don't develop the west side at all. Keep the current development and parking.
- Provide accessible trails and features.
- Remove all facilities from the west side.

Transportation

Roads

- Limit personal vehicle access.
- Close internal roads to all but bikes, shuttles, and people with disabilities.
- Address traffic flow and circulation.
- Don't improve roads to accommodate RV's.
- Do not connect east and west sides with a road.
- Consider a road connecting east and west sides, utilizing expansion area or adjacent lands.
- Widen roads for buses and increased winery traffic on the west side.
- Encourage visitors to hike and bike.
- Use clean fuel vehicles.
- Improve signage to eliminate confusion.

Shuttle

- Difficult to tell where shuttle stops are.
- Provide more shuttles and drivers, including late shuttles.
- Long wait lines on holiday weekends.
- Select east and west shuttle lots.
- Shuttle concentrates use on Bear Gulch.
- Without a shuttle, there is more dispersal and less ranger contact.
- Need more alternative transportation, including shuttles.
- Need shuttle system from Soledad on weekends.
- Integrate Alternative Transportation Plan into GMP.

- Work with adjacent communities to connect with bus systems and complement transportation plans.

Parking

- Relocate east side lots closer to Hwy 25.
- Increase the amount of available parking.
- Keep the existing parking footprint.
- Remove the Moses Spring and Bear Gulch lots.
- Disperse impacts with small lots for individual trails.
- Provide more space for parking at the access gate on Hwy 25.
- Provide parking opportunities at the Pinnacles Ranch.

Park Development and Land Use

Park Development

- Consider different management focus for east and west sides.
- Limit development. No new roads, structures, camping, RV sites, trails, restrooms, etc.
- Concentrate development near boundaries.
- Don't develop the west side.
- Seek ways to reduce existing non-historic development.
- Don't change east side or developed areas.

- Move development out of riparian areas.
- Expand Chalone development to accommodate more visitors.
- Use existing footprints for new development.
- New developments should incorporate CCC design character.
- Continue using wooden signs.
- Use sustainable development practices such as green materials, porous paving, alternative energies, and water reuse. Be a model of sustainability.
- Cave gates and erosion fencing are visually offensive.
- Minimize carbon footprint. Use mass transit and clean fuel options.
- Consider viewsheds when planning developments.

Administrative Facilities

- Consider moving administrative facilities to local communities.
- Consider sharing administrative space with BLM in Hollister.
- Move facilities out of Bear Gulch and the floodplain.
- Need only one east side entrance sign/station.
- Need permanent and seasonal housing for resource and visitor protection. Eliminate temporary housing and replace with permanent structures.
- Consider off-site park housing.
- Need adequate space for administrative tasks.



Campground store and visitor center.



Ranger-led program.



Chalone Peak Trail.

A Summary of What We Heard From You, continued

- Move administrative facilities from the park core. Consider relocating to Pinnacles Ranch.
- Replace Resource Management office with CCC compatible design.
- Implement plan for entrance and contact station on west side.
- Upgrade west side water, restrooms, sanitation, electricity, and other services.

Park Operations

Park Operations

- Address illegal dumping.
- Minimize regulatory signage. Emphasize self-regulation
- Need better boundary signage.
- Provide cultural competency training for staff.
- Address high staff turnover.

Law Enforcement and Safety

- Place signs to alert hikers that no through roads exist.
- Easements are needed for emergency access.
- Need better communications and cell towers.
- Eliminate ticketing for late exit.
- Avoid over-regulation based on the misdeeds of a few.

Entrance Fees, Reservations, and Permits

- Consider a reservation system.
- Avoid a reservation system.
- Allow permitted use of fire tower.
- Consider a minimum-impact bivouac permit for sleeping on High Peak rocks.
- Manage informal groups through permits.
- Need fee structure. A park fee of \$5-10 is reasonable.
- Reduce special use fees.
- Charge higher fees to meet park costs.
- Consider hiking reservations.
- Consider lower fees for shuttle users and youth.

Adjacent Lands and Gateway Communities

- Explore off-site areas for camping, including partnerships with private landowners.
- Address impacts to vistas from external development.
- Maintain fire breaks around park.
- Address external threats due to development, light pollution, air quality, water, and over-flights.
- Address private power line that has no easement.
- Consider partnerships to manage adjacent lands and establish buffers through agreements.

Partnerships and Public Involvement

- Expand volunteer programs.
- Work with local and regional recreation groups.
- Establish more "Friends" organizations.
- Coordinate park planning with county.
- Improve communication with neighbors.
- Park Day event involves the community.

Boundary Adjustments

- Expand the park by acquisitions of lands to the north, of riparian areas, of any available adjacent lands, and/or surrounding large ranches.
- Buffer the park with conservation agreements.
- Do not acquire new lands.
- Collaborate with others to protect the 5,000 acre parcel recently considered for development on the west side.



Rock climbing.

Note:

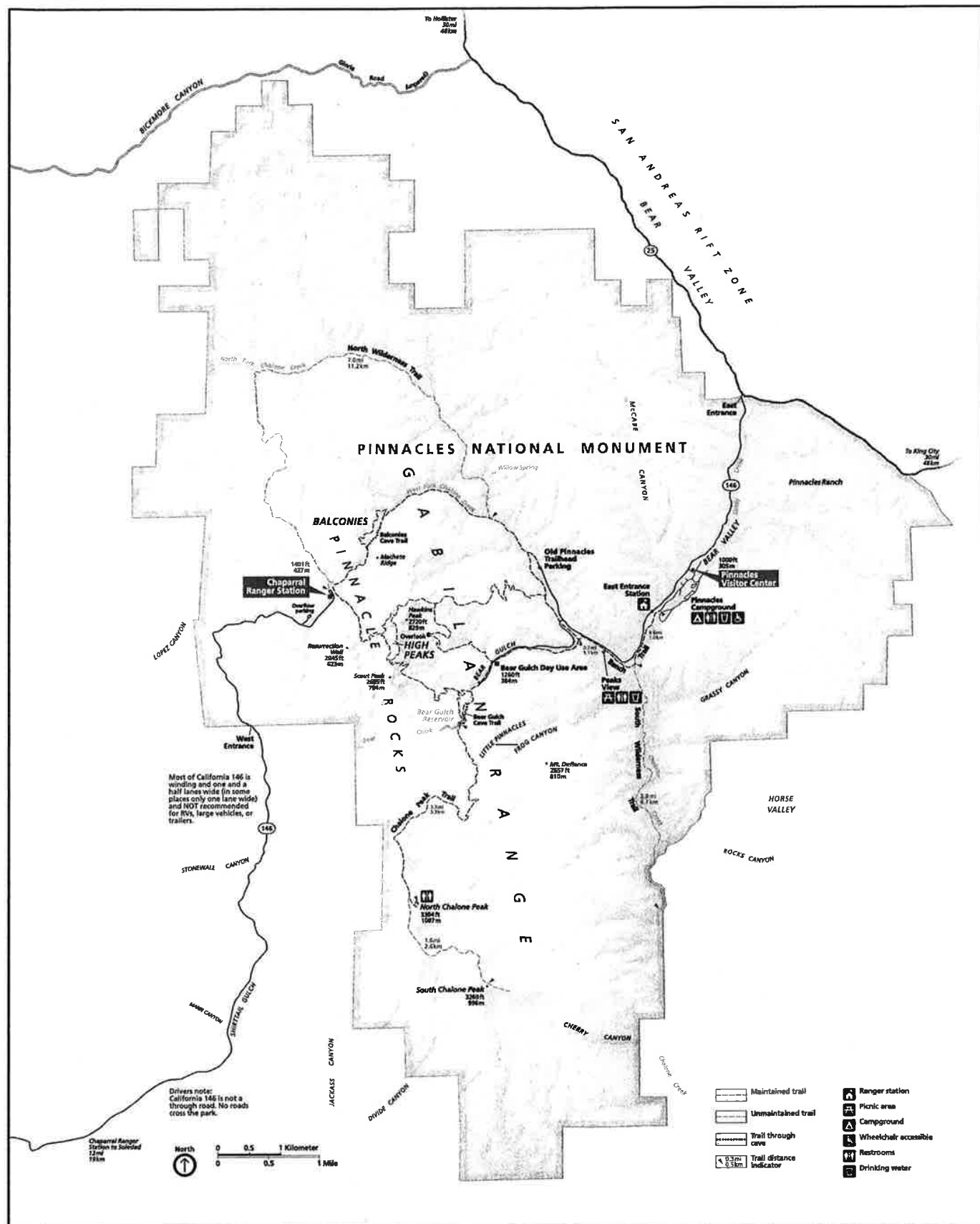
A more detailed compilation of the comments received can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/pinn/parkmgmt/planning.htm> or by contacting the park.



Park entrance sign.

Park Map

Pinnacles National Monument



How Will My Comments Be Addressed in the GMP?

The GMP will establish a future vision for Pinnacles and will provide general guidance on how to achieve that vision. Your comments help us define the vision and direction for the park's future. Pinnacles staff have reviewed and analyzed your comments. Your comments will be considered in decision-making and will be incorporated into possible visions for the future (called alternatives). Some comments provided specific ideas for preserving what's important and providing better visitor services and programs. These more detailed ideas could either be implemented by the park at any time or could be used in future plans (such as trail site planning) that will implement the GMP. Your ideas and suggestions will help us serve you better now and after completion of the GMP.

Next Steps

The GMP planning team will be gathering information to help identify ways to address the planning issues.

This information, the foundation statement, and your comments will help the team to develop possible management alternatives. The alternatives will be consistent with the foundation statement, address management issues, and comply with all applicable laws and policies.

We would like your participation in the development of the alternatives. Later this spring we will send you a newsletter with some preliminary alternative concepts for your review and input. The "alternatives" newsletter will also provide additional information on how you can participate in shaping these alternatives.

Did we miss anything?

If you would like to add any thoughts and ideas to the summary of issues presented, please send us your thoughts. Please see the contact information on the back page.



Moses Spring Trail.

Future Opportunities for your Participation

Planning Activity		Dates	Public Involvement Opportunities
1	Scoping - Set the stage for planning: Reaffirm purpose, significance, and identify ideas, concerns or issues to be addressed in the GMP.	Spring to Summer 2007	Review newsletter and send us your ideas or concerns on the comment form provided or through our planning website.
	Summarize scoping comments and report back.	Winter 2008	Attend public meetings and voice your ideas and concerns.
WE ARE HERE			
2	Develop and present preliminary alternatives: Outline different possible futures for the park and provide opportunities for review and comment by the public, agencies, tribes and other park stakeholders.	Winter to Summer 2008	Review alternative concepts newsletter and send us your ideas and concerns. Attend workshops to comment on preliminary alternatives.
3	Prepare and distribute a Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement for review and comment by the public, agencies, tribes and other park stakeholders.	Winter to Summer 2009	Review the Draft GMP/EIS and provide written comments. Attend public meetings to learn more about the draft document and to voice your ideas and concerns.
4	Revise draft and publish Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement: Analyze comments, respond to comments, revise draft document, distribute to the public.	Fall 2009 - Spring 2010	Review the Final GMP/EIS.
5	Implement the approved plan: Prepare and issue a "Record of Decision" finalizing the plan. Begin to implement the plan as funding allows.	Summer 2010 and beyond	Work with the park to implement the GMP. Specific implementation plans and projects will include further public involvement opportunities.



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**General Management Plan Team
Pinnacles National Monument
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

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Contents

This newsletter includes:

- Letter from the Superintendent
- A summary of comments we received during the scoping period of the General Management Plan.
- How will my comments be addressed in the GMP?
- Park Map
- Next Steps
- Contact Information



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VENTANA CHAPTER

EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THE PLANET

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June 2006

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Central Coast Candidates

Sam Farr
U.S. House of Representatives



Representative Farr at the recent opening of the 1700-acre addition to the Pinnacles National Monument

The Political Committee of the Ventana Chapter has again endorsed Representative Sam Farr for re-election.

Sam Farr was awarded the National Sierra Club's prestigious Ed Wayburn Award in 2004 for his strong leadership in environmental legislation. He has also worked on the Southern Sea Otter Research and Recovery Act, the US Commission on Ocean Policy report, and secured funds for the planning and design of a new Agricultural Research Service facility in Salinas.

Recently Congressman Farr was able to help Pinnacles National Monument get funds to purchase the 1700-acre Pinnacles Ranch which

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will include the first public campground for the park. The additional lands also mean additional grassland, riparian, endangered species, and migratory habitat. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee Sam has said, "I'll be fighting to prevent exploitation of our natural resources as debate over this bill continues."

Keep Sam Farr representing our communities in Washington D.C.

John Laird
27th State Assembly District



John Laird

Sierra Club endorses John Laird for re-election to the State Assembly. During the past year John has assumed a leadership role as Budget Committee Chair. He is fighting to ensure California's environmental protection is strong and develop new water conservation standards.

Three of his key water conservation bills currently pending are

AB 984, which calls for control or eradication of invasive tamarisk on the Colorado River in order to increase water supply and restore habitat;

AB 1881, which implements urban landscape irrigation conservation recommendations that resulted from a previously enacted bill; and

AB 2496, which will save billions of gallons of water through mandating use of high-efficiency toilets.

John has been an excellent representative of our district in the State Assembly.

Monterey County

Jyl Lutes
Monterey County Supervisor 2nd District

The Ventana Chapter enthusiastically endorses Jyl Lutes for Monterey County District 2 Supervisor. A Salinas City Councilperson for seven years and Mayor Pro-Tem, Lutes is an advocate for smart growth, responsive government and leadership that puts residents before special interests. Lutes is committed to ending the special-interest funded politics that currently dominates Monterey County. She pledges to fight for the public's right to know, to participate and to decide what is best for their community.

On the City Council, Lutes guided a new vision for the Salinas General Plan. She promoted vibrant, compact, mixed-use, mixed-income, pedestrian-friendly communities and city-centered growth. The Salinas General Plan has earned recognition from the Congress of New Urbanism.

Lutes helped craft a progressive, low-income housing ordinance which is now included in the City's General Plan. Among all County jurisdictions, Salinas now requires the highest percentage of new

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affordable housing.

Lutes helped transform the Salinas budget crisis into a "Standard and Poor A+" credit rating. As a member of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), Lutes consistently advocated for alternatives to automobile travel, and it was Lutes' vote that killed the Hatton Canyon Freeway.

Understanding the economic and environmental costs of sprawl, Lutes supports the Community General Plan Initiative. As Supervisor, she intends to continue advocating city-centered growth and keeping rural areas

rural. She wants guarantees from developers that affordable housing, adequate infrastructure and community services will be included in all plans for future growth in Monterey County.

Her experience includes serving as a councilmember for seven years, as an Alisal School District Trustee, and as Chair of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County.

To help with her campaign, contact Lutes at 443-5040 or visit www.electLutes.com.

Santa Cruz

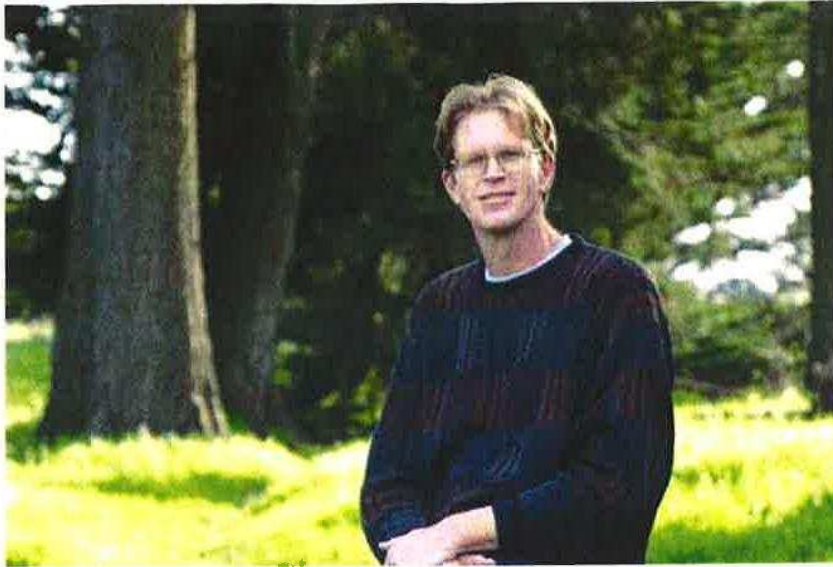
Christopher Krohn ***Santa Cruz County Supervisor, 3rd District***

The Sierra Club is pleased to endorse Chris Krohn for Santa Cruz County Supervisor, 3rd District. Krohn's commitment to protection of Santa Cruz County's natural and open space lands is one of his top priorities. He is firmly on record as opposing the widening of Highway 1 and supporting environmentally-friendly public transportation including a bicycle-pedestrian trail on the rail right-of way. Krohn promotes affordable housing within current urban footprints at levels that ensure adequate water supplies. He believes in strengthening the local economy by attracting green businesses that will provide employment without pollution.

As a Santa Cruz City Council member, Krohn successfully fought to improve water quality by stopping timber harvesting in the City's watershed lands. He has worked to preserve agricultural lands from development.



Jyl Lutes



Christopher Krohn

Krohn is a former Mayor of Santa Cruz. He is currently the Environmental Studies Internship Coordinator at UCSC, and his wife, Rachel, is Chair of the Environmental Studies Department at San Jose State University. The Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club feels that Krohn reflects the values of the Sierra Club.

To help with his campaign, contact Krohn at 420-1266 or visit www.chriskrohnforsupervisor.org.

Statewide Offices

Phil Angelides and Steve Westly **Governor**

Sierra Club California endorses both Angelides and Westly. Either would be the greenest governor California has ever had. Both candidates have used their current positions to safeguard our state's air, water, coast, and open space.

Angelides has guided California's huge pension funds, CALPERS and CALSTRS, into green investments. Westly has taken on the auto companies on global warming and the power plants on marine life protection.

Liz Figueroa, John Garamendi, and Jackie Speier **Lieutenant Governor**

All three of these candidates have good records. Senator Figueroa has voted for all of the Club's most important bills in the Senate over the last three years. Insurance Commissioner Garamendi authored laws on clean energy and toxic clean-up when he served in the legislature. As Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Dept. of Interior he blocked the Ward Valley nuclear waste dump and implemented water reforms. Senator Speier voted for 83% of the Club's highest priority bills in the Senate over the last three years.

Jerry Brown **Attorney General**

As Governor of California, Jerry Brown pushed for alternative energy and green building. He favored mass transit over highway construction and was a strong advocate for river and forest protection. During his interview with the Sierra Club, Brown emphasized the need to defend the state vigorously against efforts by the right-wing congressional leadership and the White House to preempt important state environmental laws with looser (or non-existent) federal standards. Brown will be a strong advocate for coastal and forest protection and will vigorously pursue polluters in court.

Debra Bowen
Secretary of State

One of the principal issues facing the secretary of state is the problem of applying modern technology to voting. As chair of the Senate Elections Committee, Senator Bowen has been an aggressive leader in fighting for safeguards to ensure that all votes will be accurately recorded and reported. She has been a strong supporter of Clean Money campaign finance reform.

Bowen has been an environmental leader during her 14 years in the legislature. She voted for 23 of the Club's 24 highest priority bills in the last three years.

Bill Lockyer
Treasurer

For eight years Lockyer has been the greenest attorney general in California history. He now promises to be the greenest treasurer. The treasurer can influence environmental policy through investment decisions of the pension funds and through leadership of the California Pollution Control Financing Authority.

Jack O'Connell
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Sierra Club's main interest in this position stems from our active involvement in environmental education. O'Connell has supported environmental education both in the classroom and in outdoor schools.

John Chiang and Joe Dunn
Controller

The controller sits on the State Lands Commission, the California Pollution Control Financing Authority and state pension funds.

On the Board of Equalization Chiang has consistently voted to uphold and rigorously enforce a series of "polluter-pays" fees that fund programs for electronic waste recycling, hazardous waste clean up and prevention of childhood lead poisoning. He advocated ocean and desert protection as a staff member for former Controller Gray Davis.

Senator Dunn has voted for all of the Club's highest priority bills in the Senate over the last three years. A successful consumer attorney, he demonstrated his investigative ability by leading a hard-hitting Senate inquiry into the profiteering energy companies such as Enron who abused California during the electricity crisis.

Issues

**Community General Plan Initiative and Rancho San Juan
Referendum
*not on ballot***

Monterey County voters will not be able to vote in June on two important land use ballot measures supported by the Ventana Chapter- the Community General Plan Initiative and the Rancho San Juan/Butterfly Village Referendum. These measures remain stalled in the Ninth Circuit Court. However, the lawsuit cited to justify their absence (*Padilla v Lever*) is scheduled to be reheard on June 22. Sierra Club is hopeful both measures will be restored to the November ballot.

Until these legal issues are resolved satisfactorily, Monterey County citizens will continue to be denied the rights to referendum and initiative, which the state constitution grants them. A well-respected election-law authority has filed legal papers with the court on the Padilla decision, laying out the serious issues it raises. We share his concerns, and we have raised them with local and state officials. You can read one of his submissions on this issue at: www.electionlawblog.org/archives/005352.html.

**Vote NO on Measure A
*Don't subsidize development of farmland***

Measure A is a proposal placed on the June ballot by the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC) to enact a 1/2 cent sales tax increase to begin land purchases for the Prunedale Bypass.

Measure A has many provisions that are of concern to the Ventana Chapter. First and foremost is the initiation of a land acquisition plan for the U.S. 101 Prunedale Freeway Bypass Project. This would be a new freeway leaving Hwy. 101 just north of Salinas, proceeding east of the present highway, and re-connecting with Hwy. 101 just north of Prunedale. Not only is it not needed, the Prunedale Bypass will enable development of the area east of Hwy. 101 and the Gavilan Range.

Developers do not like to pay for infrastructure. It is not a coincidence that they and big business are supporting this measure. They would much rather have working people foot their bills. It is clear that the function of this tax hike is to subsidize development making traffic and congestion worse. The Sierra Club and responsible urban planners know that you can't pave your way out of congestion.

Remember, vote no on Measure A.



Join Pinnacles National Monument in Planning for the Next Century

Dear Friends:

I'm pleased to announce that Pinnacles National Monument is beginning the next phase of its General Management Plan.

Pinnacles was established as a National Monument in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt to protect 900 acres of forest land. Today, your National Monument is over 24,000 acres and home to volcanic rock formations, talus caves, riparian waterways, oak savannah woodlands, chaparral, and cultural landscapes that include prehistoric archeology, California homesteads, and historic construction from the Civilian Conservation Corps. The General Management Plan (GMP) will describe the long term vision for managing this rich fabric of central California's landscape, and provide guidance for management and development over the next 15-20 years.

You may recall that we started the GMP several years ago – in 1998. We held some public meetings, and asked for your ideas about the future of Pinnacles. Then we decided to put the planning process on hold until the purchase of Pinnacles Ranch and campground was completed, which occurred on March 15, 2006. Bringing this important piece of land into the monument took longer than expected, but it was worth the wait. The Ranch provides us new planning opportunities for the east side of the monument—addressing challenges we have been wrestling with for decades—such as better parking and transportation options, camping, education, and a wider range of opportunities for people with different interests and abilities.

In addition to acquiring Pinnacles Ranch, we have made great progress in reintroducing California condors, removing invasive exotic plants and destructive non-native pigs,



Pinnacles Ranch dedication. From left to right are Stu and Peggy Kingman, Superintendent Eric Brunnemann, Congressman Sam Farr, local school children, school teacher Tina Plunkett, and former Superintendent Steve Shakelton.

restoring Chalone Creek, reintroducing California red-legged frogs, and rerouting Bear Gulch Cave Trail to protect Townsend bat colonies while keeping cave routes open to visitors. With our expanding mission we have new partners, including the San Benito County Office of Education, Hartnell Community College, Institute for Wildlife Studies, San Benito Community Foundation, and the newly established Pinnacles Partnership—which is dedicated to ensuring excellence in education, resource stewardship and visitor experiences at Pinnacles National Monument for present and future generations.

We are now ready to continue the planning process, incorporating all public comments received during the first public comment period. Because so much has changed during the interim, we want to give you another opportunity to tell us what you would like us to address in our long-range planning for the park.

The GMP process gives all of us the opportunity to think about what we want from places like Pinnacles that embody our

national heritage. The surrounding areas are changing dramatically—as are our needs. What will you as a community expect? What will your children, and your children's children, experience when they come here?

This newsletter describes the GMP planning process and how you can be involved over the next three years. We hope you will tell us your thoughts and ideas, and work with us to plan for Pinnacles National Monument's second century.

Most Sincerely,

Eric J. Brunnemann
Superintendent

Contents

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- What is a General Management Plan?
- Pinnacles National Monument Map
- Why was Pinnacles NM Established?
- Tell Us What You Think!
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- Comment Form

What is a General Management Plan?

A General Management Plan (GMP) is an opportunity for you to help create a vision for the future of Pinnacles National Monument. A GMP is a long-range plan required for each park and monument in the national park system. It identifies the desired conditions for natural and cultural resources and visitor experiences, in order to guide Pinnacles' managers as they decide how to best protect monument resources, how to provide for high quality visitor experiences, and how to manage visitation and visitor use. The GMP planning process will involve the following steps:

(See graphic on page 7.)

- **Foundation Planning:** document why the monument was established, what is significant about the monument and what are its most important resources.
- **Public Scoping:** identify goals and issues that need to be addressed in the planning process.
- **Data and Resource Analysis:** collect data and analyze existing conditions of the monument.

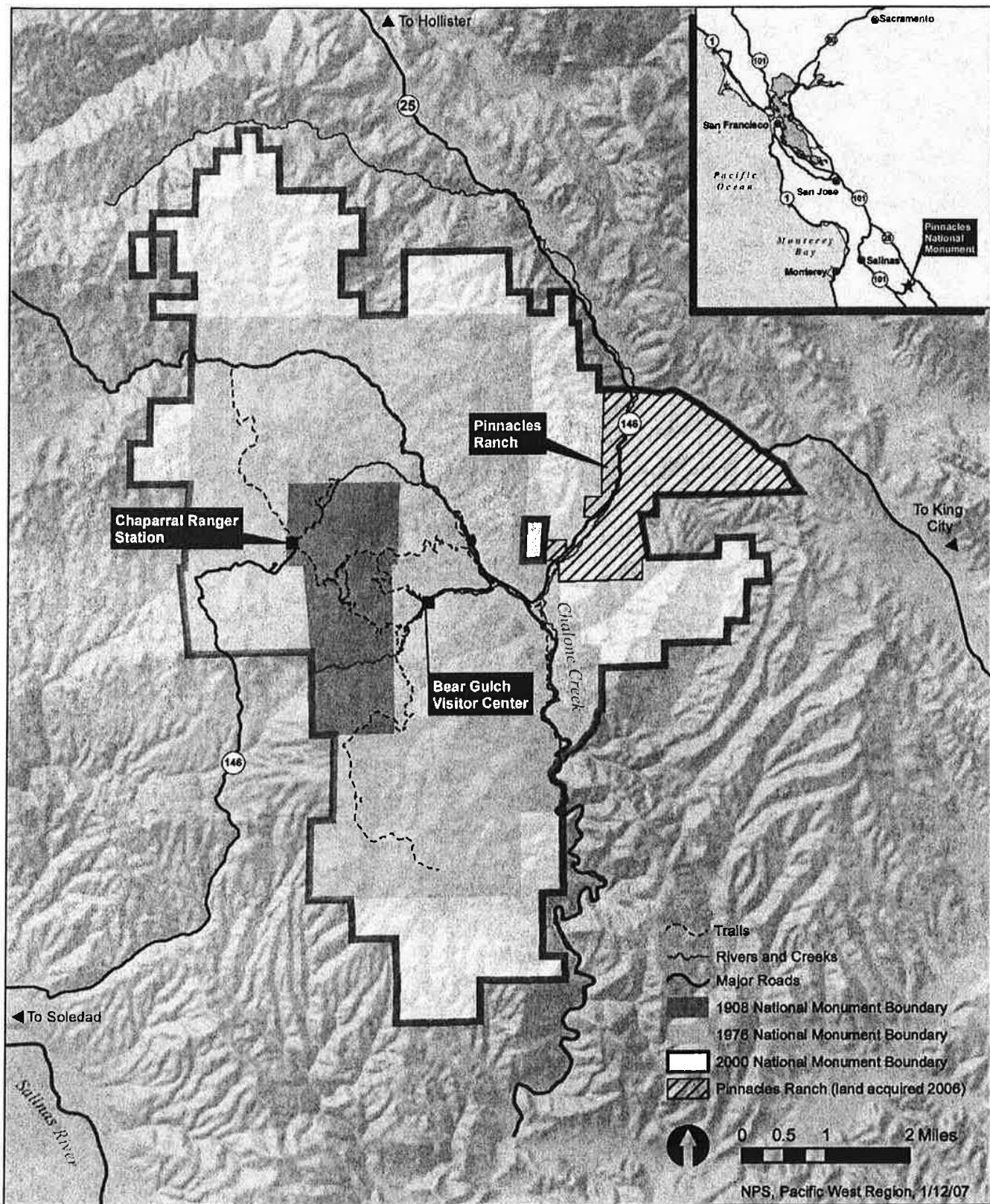
- **Develop Alternatives:** outline different possible futures for the monument and determine what actions are needed to accomplish these goals.
- **Prepare/Distribute Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement:** prepare and distribute the draft plan for public, agency, and other stakeholder review.
- **Prepare Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement:** analyze comments, respond to comments, and revise the draft plan.

The GMP will provide a "blueprint" for the future of Pinnacles National Monument – what resource conditions and visitor experiences we will be striving to achieve over the next 15-20 years. The plan will not include facility designs, and it won't be able to resolve all of the identified issues, or guarantee funding for the park.

A General Management Plan provides a vision for the future and a framework for decision-making.



Pinnacles National Monument Map



Why was Pinnacles National Monument Established?

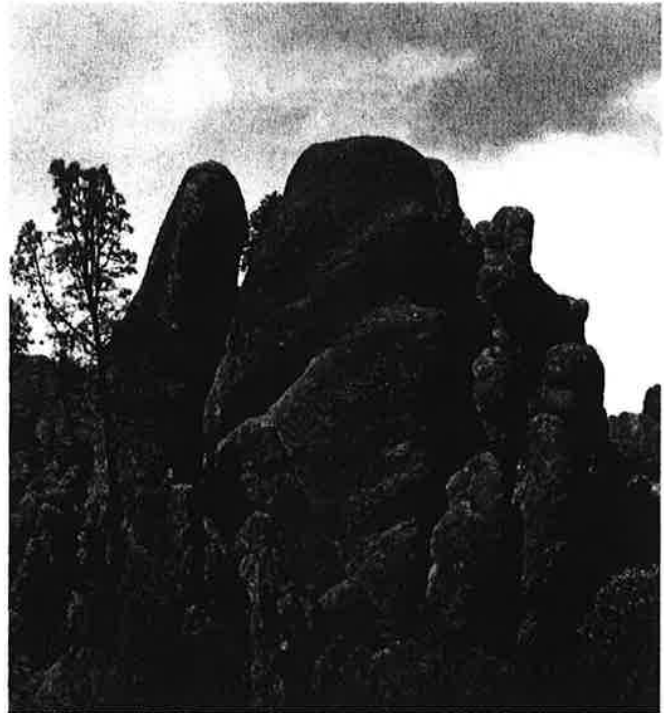
The first step of the GMP planning process is to clarify why the park exists – what was so special about Pinnacles that President Theodore Roosevelt signed a proclamation to preserve it? We answer this question by preparing a “foundation statement.” The foundation statement records our shared understanding of a park’s purpose, significance, and resources and values – a foundation for planning and management. The following are draft statements about Pinnacles’ purpose and significance prepared by park staff. Please let us know if you think we have accurately captured what is significant about the monument. We will use these statements to guide the development of the general management plan.

Park Purpose

The purpose statement clarifies the reasons Pinnacles National Monument was established as part of the national park system and provides the foundation for management and use of the monument. The following draft purpose statement is based on the Presidential proclamation that established the monument and later proclamations and laws that gave further direction.

Pinnacles National Monument’s Purpose:

The purpose of Pinnacles National Monument is to protect the volcanic Pinnacle Rocks formation, talus caves, associated lands and ecosystems that are of scientific and educational value, by caring for their natural processes and wild character for the benefit and inspiration of all.



Park Significance

Significance statements define what is most important about a park's resources and values. These draft statements describe the park's distinctiveness in a regional and national context. They are based on the purpose for which the park was created. Understanding the national monument's significance helps guide and focus NPS decisions about managing the monument.

Pinnacles National Monument is nationally significant because:

- Pinnacles National Monument contains a remnant of an ancient strata volcano that was split by the movement of two continental plates and provided key evidence for the theory of plate tectonics.
- Pinnacles National Monument contains the most extensive assemblage of rare talus caves within the National Park System and cares for the natural processes and ecosystems within.
- Pinnacles Wilderness protects the natural character of central California's native ecosystems and provides opportunities to experience wildness in an area of expanding urban development.
- The dynamic ecosystems of Pinnacles National Monument are a refuge for native species and their habitats.

Other Important Resources and Values

The following resources and values are also important considerations for planning:

- The development and character of Pinnacles National Monument was strongly influenced by the work of the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps, most of which remains today. Examples include stone buildings, trails, roads, bridges, and Bear Gulch reservoir.
- Other important resources and values are associated with ranching, homesteading, Native American use, and the grassroots efforts that established the national monument.



Tell us what you think!

There will be several opportunities throughout the GMP planning process to share your thoughts and ideas with us. The graphic on p. 7 indicates public opportunities for comment and review at key points in the planning process.

Please let us know if you have thoughts, ideas and concerns about what should be addressed in the general management plan. It is important that we hear your ideas and concerns early in the planning process. The comment period for this stage of the planning process will extend through May 31, 2007.

You can send us your comments by completing the enclosed comment form and mailing it back to us or by submitting your comments electronically through the Pinnacles web site:

<http://www.nps.gov/pinn>

Under "Quicklinks," click on "General Management Plan." This web site will also include regular updates on the planning schedule, public meeting announcements, copies of newsletters and planning documents.

Public Meetings. This spring we will hold public meetings at several locations in the region. These meetings will provide an opportunity for you to share your thoughts, ideas, values, concerns and information. You will also be able to learn more about the planning process. Please refer to the dates at the back of the newsletter for a meeting near you.

Newsletters and Web site.

Newsletters such as this will be distributed periodically throughout the planning process. For the most up-to-date information, you can view the Pinnacles web site. All newsletters will be posted on the planning web site and you can enter in your comments through the web site.

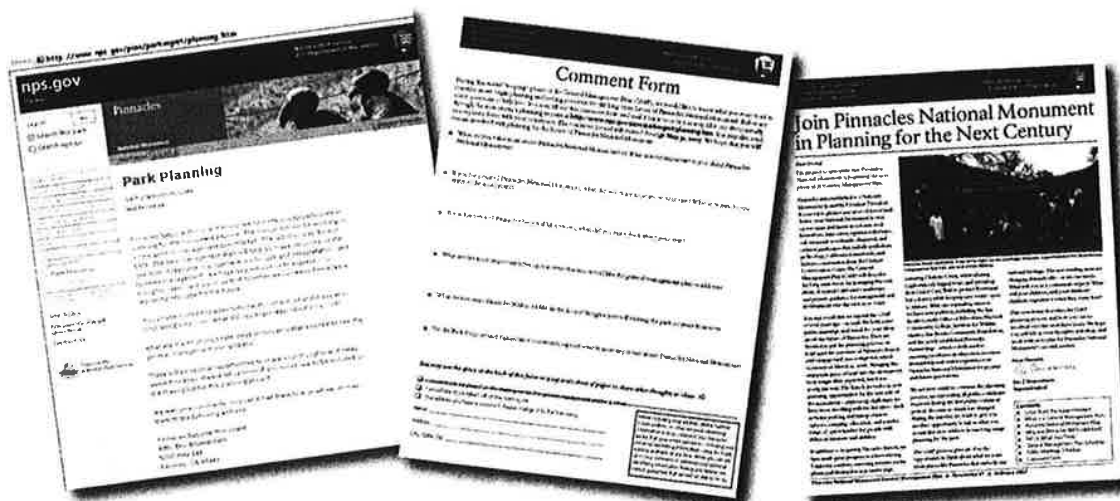
Discussions with Groups and Organizations. Our planning team members will also meet with interested agencies and organizations in order to gather and generate ideas, and to provide information about the plan's progress.

This GMP was started several years ago – in 1998. We held some public meetings, and asked for your ideas about the future of Pinnacles NM. Some of you may have provided comments at that time and your comments were recorded and will still be considered. A summary of comments from the 1998 public meetings is posted on the Pinnacles web site.

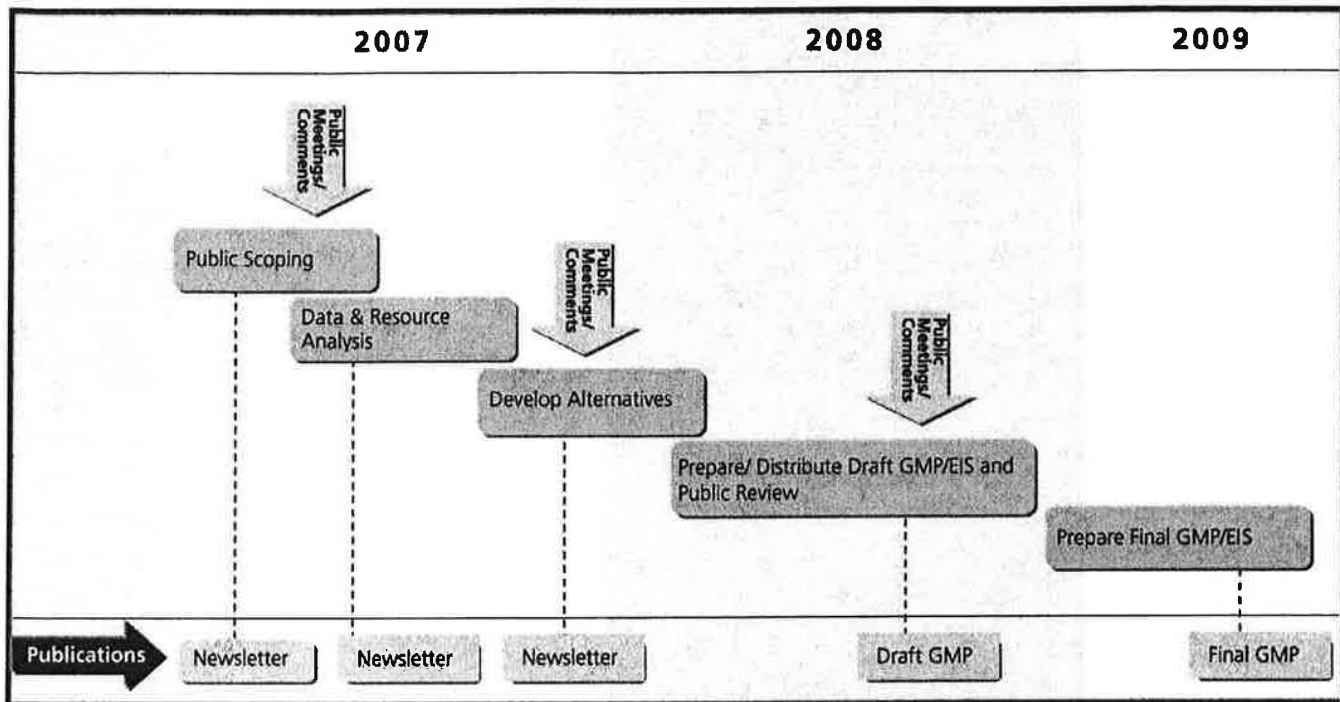
The planning process was put on hold until acquisition of Pinnacles Ranch was completed in March 2006. Because it has been so long, and because so much has changed in the meantime, we're re-opening the public comment period. With all the changes that have taken place at Pinnacles and in the surrounding communities, we want to give you another opportunity to tell us what you'd like us to address in planning for the park's future.

Please send comments to:

General Management Plan Team
Pinnacles National Monument
5000 Highway 146
Paicines, CA, 95043



General Management Plan Schedule





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pinnacles National Monument GMP
5000 Highway 146
Paicines, CA, 95043

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Contact Information

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Carl Brenner, GMP Information:
(831) 389-4485 x 265

Martha Crusius, Project Manager:
(510) 817-1447

Park Web Site:

<http://www.nps.gov/pinn>

E-mail:

pinn_gmp@nps.gov

Public Meetings

This spring we will hold public meetings to give you an opportunity to tell us what you'd like us to consider in a new general management plan for Pinnacles National Monument. During these meetings you will have an opportunity to 1) learn more about the general management plan process and how you can participate, 2) discuss your ideas, thoughts and concerns about the future of Pinnacles National Monument, and 3) learn about current park programs.

This newsletter also describes other ways in which you can give us your comments and suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Pinnacles National Monument

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Pinnacles National Monument is a protected mountainous area located east of central California's Salinas Valley. The Monument's namesakes are the eroded leftovers of half of an extinct volcano.

The Monument is divided by the rock formations into East and West Divisions, connected by foot trails; there is no through road that connects the east end west entrances to the park. The east side has shade and water, the west has high walls. The rock formations provide for spectacular pinnacles that attract rock climbers. It is popular with advanced rock climbers due to the many difficult and challenging climbs.^[1] The Monument is most often visited in spring or fall because of the intense heat during the summer months.

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History

First set aside as Pinnacles Forest Reserve in 1906, Pinnacles has had several different federal management agencies, ranging from the United States Forest Service to the General Land Office and ultimately to the National Park Service. In 1908 President Theodore Roosevelt created Pinnacles National Monument with the power given him in the Antiquities Act of 1906. To commemorate the people and organizations instrumental to the creation and early protection of the park. Pinnacles National Monument celebrated its Centennial in 2008 with numerous dedicatory events.

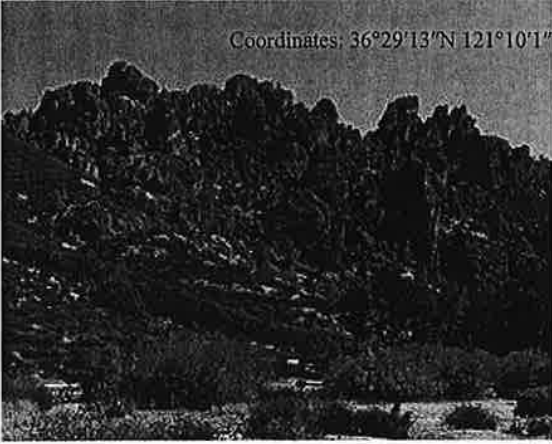
Geography


Pinnacles NM lies about 40 miles (64 km) inland from the Pacific Ocean and about 80 miles (130 km) south of the San Francisco Bay Area. The monument is in the southern portion of the Gabilan Range, part of California's Coast Ranges. Elevation within the boundaries range from 824 feet (251 m) to 3,304 feet (1,007 m) at the peak of North Chalone Peak.

Pinnacles National Monument

IUCN Category III (Natural Monument)

Coordinates: 36°29′13″N 121°10′1″W﻿ / ﻿





Location	San Benito County & Monterey County, California, USA
Nearest city	Soledad, California
Coordinates	36°29′13″N 121°10′1″W﻿ / ﻿
Area	24,514 acres (9,920 ha)
Established	January 16, 1908
Visitors	158,637 (in 2004)
Governing body	National Park Service

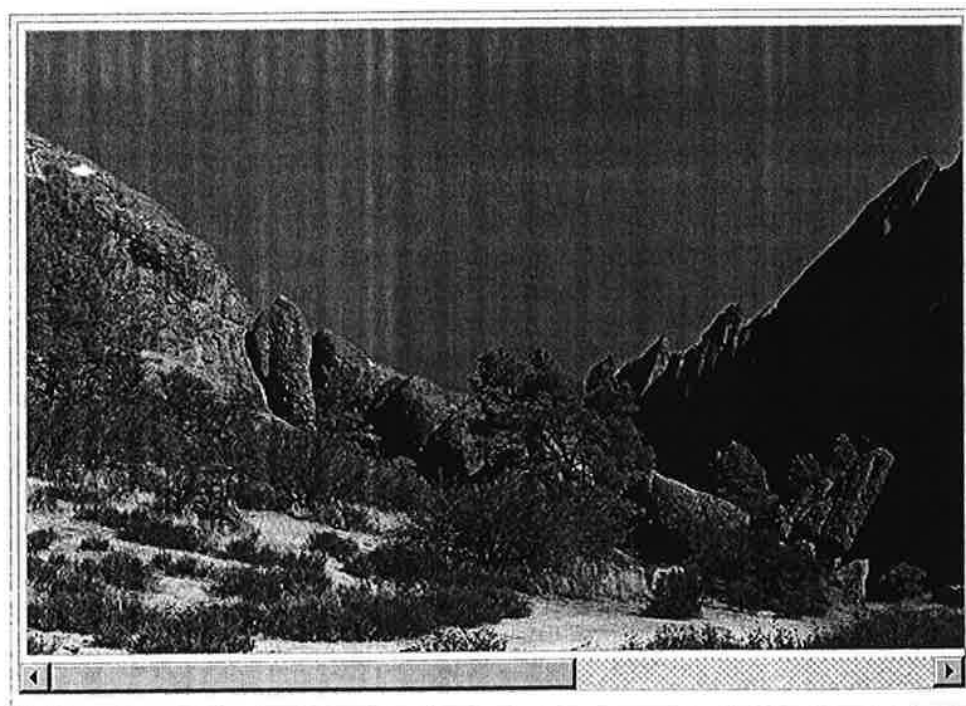


Entrance to Balconies Cave at Pinnacles National Monument

The climate is Mediterranean, typical on the Southern and Central California coast. The Santa Lucia Mountains lie between the Monument and Pacific Ocean, blocking much of the moderating influence of the Ocean. In comparison to the nearby coast, temperatures have a daily larger range that can be 50 °F to 100 °F (10 °C to 38 °C). The average rainfall is 16 inches (410 mm) per year. Snow can fall in small amounts at higher elevations between mid-December and January.

The monument lies within the California interior chaparral and woodlands ecoregion. The vegetation is about 80% chaparral with woodlands, riparian and grasslands merged into the chaparral. The diversity of intersecting ecosystems and altitude has led to great number of animal species that call the Monument home.

Geology



The Monument is located near the San Andreas Fault, which had a hand in creating the unique formations the Monument protects. The Pinnacles are part of the Neenach Volcano which erupted 23 million years ago near what is Lancaster, California today. The movement of the Pacific Plate along the San Andreas Fault split a section of rock off from the main body of the volcano and moved it 195 miles (314 km) to the northwest. It is believed that the pinnacles came from this particular volcano due to the unique breccias that are only found elsewhere in the Neenach Volcano formations. Differential erosion and weathering of the exposed rock created the Pinnacles that are seen today.

Large scale earth movement also created the talus caves that can be found in the Monument. Deep, narrow gorges and shear fractures were transformed into caves by large chunks of rock falling from above and wedging into the cracks leaving an open area below.

Since the Pinnacles were moved to this area, the San Andreas Fault has shifted 4 miles (6.4 km) to the East of the Monument. The original location of the San Andreas can be seen in the Chalone Creek Fault. Two other large faults are known to run through the Monument, the Miner's Gulch and Pinnacles Faults. These faults parallel the San Andreas and were most likely caused by major movements of the main fault.

Seismic activity is frequent in the Monument and United States Geological Survey maintains two seismometers within the boundaries. Evidence of past and ongoing seismic activity can be seen in offset streams where they cross faults. Valley bottoms and terraces show signs of uplift.

Wildlife

Peregrine Falcons live in this area and a California Condor re-establishment program has been in place since 2003. Bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes, California Quail, Wild Turkeys, and many other birds and mammals live in the area. Like many parks in central California, Pinnacles has had a small problem with wild pigs (a mix of feral domestic pigs and imported wild boars) disturbing the landscape on a regular basis. As of Spring 2006, the core of the park was pig free. The culmination of a ten-year, multi-million dollar effort had succeeded in eradicating pigs from the main area of the park. National Park Service personnel along with IWS worked to remove pigs from inside the park, and establish and monitor an exclusionary pig fence that runs for approximately 24 miles around the perimeter of the park. As recently as Fall 2007 however, wild pigs have been found in regular abundance in and around federally maintained campgrounds within the park -such is the pervasiveness of the problem. Current monitoring for potential breaks and breaches in the fence is needed to ensure that the pigs do not return to devastate the park.

Pinnacles Wilderness

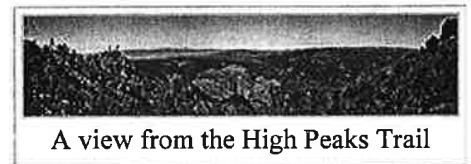
More than 80% of the park is designated as the **Pinnacles Wilderness** area (15,985 acres / 6,469 hectares), which provides even higher protection for the rock spires that give Pinnacles its name, as well as Chalone Peak, the highest peak in the Gabilan Range, and includes the creeks and canyons that are habitat for the endangered red-legged frog.^[2] The United States Congress in 1976 enacted Public Law 94-567, adding Pinnacles Wilderness and several others to the National Wilderness Preservation System.^[3]

Activities

There are several trails for day hikers, some of which are strenuous. The trails provide views of the surrounding hills and valleys on clear days. The San Andreas Fault is visible from some vantages along the trails.

See also

- State Route 25
- State Route 146
- Tres Pinos, California
- Trona Pinnacles — in southern California near Ridgecrest and Trona.



Notes and references

- ↑ Johnson, Elvin R.; Cordone, Richard P. (1992). *Pinnacles Guide: Pinnacles National Monument, San Benito County, California*. Glendale, CA: La Siesta Press. ISBN 910856-71-58.
- ↑ http://www.nps.gov/pinn/parkmgmt/wilderness.htm
- ↑ PDF document of legislation from Wilderness.net (http://www.wilderness.net/NWPS/documents/publiclaws/PDF/94-567.pdf)

External links

- National Park Service link (http://www.nps.gov/pinn/)
- NASA Earth Observatory image (http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/NewImages/images.php3?img_id=17273)

- Bird Watching at Pinnacles National Monument (<http://www.california-birding.com/pinnacles.html>)

Pinnacles National Monument travel guide from Wikitravel

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinnacles_National_Monument"

Categories: IUCN Category III | Monterey County, California | National Park Service National Monuments in California | San Benito County, California | Volcanoes of California | Protected areas established in 1908

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Friends Of Pinnacles

About The Park
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*We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to working directly with the National Park Service to preserve **rock climbing** and **the environment** at Pinnacles National Monument.*

Park Weather: Mar 24th, 2010

Current Conditions: (5:37 AM)
(Pinnacles Weather Station)

Temp: 41.0°

Wind: 1 mph **Gusts:** 4 mph

Hollister Forecast: (Mar 24: 5:55 am)

A 40 percent chance of rain. Increasing clouds, with a low around 44. West southwest wind between 5 and 9 mph.

Sign up for our **FREE membership** and receive the FOP E-newsletter.

Help preserve Pinnacles.

Send your feedback on the GMP Assessment Plan

Spring 2010 Artist in Residence Program

1/28/2010

Pinnacles is pleased to announce that the park is accepting applications for the spring 2010 Artist Residency

Condor Partnership Takes Flight

1/17/2010

Two of the world's largest and most endangered birds will benefit from a sister park agreement signed today by the directors of the National Park Service and Argentina's Administracion de Parques Nacionales. This formal partnership will strengthen condor

Rebolting Report - Adam's Apple

1/10/2010

FOP's latest rebolting effort targets Adam's Apple. Here's the full field report.

Climbing Advisories Going Into Effect

1/7/2010

Annual measures to protect nesting raptors of Pinnacles National Monument will be reinstated as of January 14

Condor Dies of Lead Poisoning

12/8/2009

The adult female of the only breeding pair of California Condors in San Benito County was recently rushed to the Los Angeles Zoo for emergency treatment...

Park Assists Stranded Climbers

11/21/2009

...park staff assisted two male climbers, from the San Jose area, off of a climbing route after they had become stranded due to nightfall.

Wild Raised Condor Chick Takes Flight

11/3/2009

The first condor hatched in this Central California county in at least 70 years, recently took his first flight.

Climber Registration Logs Relocated

11/3/2009

The voluntary climber registration logs and boxes on the west side of Pinnacles National Monument have been relocated.

New Additions to Summit Registry Project

7/8/2009

Entries from the North Finger Summit Register have been posted.

Welcome to the Friends Of Pinnacles

Welcome to our web site. Please browse at your leisure - read the news, check out the gallery and, of course, become a member

Climbing News!

new routes • rebolting

FOP has a brand new interface for its Routes Information area. Now you can select and sort New Routes, Rebolting Info, Corrections and Warnings in a snap.

New Trip Reports! Read others and Send Us Yours!

Summit Register Preservation: We're saving deteriorated summit entries and putting them on-line.

Make a Donation

On-line Donations

Make a donation to FOP using Visa, MC or PayPal via PayPal's secure system.

Closure Watch

Closures Are IN EFFECT!
(Closures end in 108 day(s))
<view closure list>

It's About Time!

2005

New Route Info
Summit Register On-line
New Letters

Latest New Routes!



Let us hear from you

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Park Hours

Standard Time hours are in effect:
East Side: 24 hrs
West Side Entrance: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Frequently Asked Questions

Got a question? Try our new FAQ section.

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About Friends Of Pinnacles

Friends of Pinnacles is an organization of rock climbers dedicated to preserving the natural resources at Pinnacles National Monument, and climber's access to those resources. Friends of Pinnacles will work cooperatively with the National Park Service, nonaffiliated climbers, other interest groups, and the public to:

1. Reduce impact and rehabilitate high-use areas at the Pinnacles
2. Provide for effective and appropriate management of climbing activities
3. Provide for construction and maintenance of trails and facilities used by climbers
4. Develop and distribute educational materials
5. Generally promote the Leave No Trace (LNT) ethic of outdoor recreation



Friends of Pinnacles is a nonpartisan group which any climber may join without a requisite membership fee.

Board Of Directors [Top of Page ↑](#)

Bruce Hildenbrand (President)

Self-appointed safety administrator, climbing guru and all-around great guy. If you've climbed at the Pinnacles, chances are you have clipped a bolt or used a belay Bruce graciously replaced or installed. Bruce has been a board member since 1990.

Kelly Rich (COO)

Kelly is a founding member of FOP and one of the most prolific route establishers at the Pinns. No doubt you've climbed several of his routes. Kelly has been a board member since 1990 and remains committed to the basic philosophies promoted by FOP.

Brooks White (CTO/Acting Secretary)

A board member since 1992, Brooks is the engine that drives the day to day function of FOP. A huge proponent of the power of the World Wide Web to unite communities via the Internet Brooks focuses his work on the FOP Web site.

Clint Cummins (Board Member)

Clint's work has been critical towards keeping climbing healthy at the Pinnacles. He has worked tirelessly over the years to keep current on all aspects of the park and we are proud to have his expertise on staff.

Sam Davidson (access counsel)

Honorary member. Sam serves as FOP's access consultant. Sam has been involved with FOP since it's inception in 1990.

**** Special Mention! ****

David Rubine

Although he is now officially a resident of Colorado (some decent climbing out there) David remains an honorary board member. David authored the current Pinnacles Climbing Guide Book, is the other cofounder of FOP. David is credited with establishing many of the classic routes at the park.

Contact Information [Top of Page ↑](#)

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Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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Pinnacles National Monument

Camping at Pinnacles

Generators are TEMPORARILY allowed in the RV loop in the campground.
A problem has arisen with the RV electrical system and generators will be allowed between the hours of 8:00 am and 8:00 pm.

Reservations are still being handled by recreation.gov. For campground information, maps, or to make a reservation, please visit **recreation.gov** or call 1-877-444-6777.
Please direct campground specific questions to 831-389-4538.



Pinnacles Campground is located near the east entrance of the park and offers tent, group, and RV sites. Each tent and group site has a picnic table and fire ring. RV sites have electrical hookups and share community tables and barbecue pits. Water spigots are located throughout the campground. Oak trees provide shade in many of the sites. The campground swimming pool is now open for the spring and summer seasons.

The campground store is located inside the visitor center, and is open from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm every day. If the campground store desk is not staffed, it may possible to make purchases by using a self-pay station where exact change is needed.

Showers and a dump station are located nearby. During the spring and summer, ranger programs are offered on weekends at the campground amphitheater.

Reservations for Pinnacles Campground can be made by visiting **www.recreation.gov** or calling (877)444-6777. Tent and RV sites can be reserved up to 6 months in advance, and Group sites can be reserved up to 12 months in advance.

Pinnacles Campground is currently operated by a concessionaire. It has been part of the park since March 2006, and was operated by the National Park Service for a short time. Before this time the Pinnacles Campground was privately owned and operated until March 2006.



Did You Know?

California condors have a wingspan approaching 10 feet. Condors soar and glide at up to 50 miles per hour, and can sometimes be mistaken for a small airplane.

more...

Last Updated: November 27, 2009 at 13:02 EST

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Pinnacles National Monument History & Culture

Native Americans

Anthropologists believe Pinnacles was intermittently occupied by small groups of Native Americans. Evidence in the form of arrowheads and acorn grinding stones have been discovered within the monument.

Native Americans called Costanoans (a word derived from Spanish for "people of the coast") inhabited western central California. Two local subgroups of the Costanoans, the Chalone and Mutsun, visited Pinnacles. Subgroup populations ranged between 50 and 500 people. The Chalone lived west of Pinnacles in the Salinas River valley and the Mutsun lived to the north and east in the San Juan Bautista area and along the San Benito river.

Because Pinnacles gets extremely hot (temperatures over 100 degrees F) and dry during the summer months, the Chalone and Mutsun likely did not live at Pinnacles year-round. They probably came and enjoyed the beautiful spring weather, rebuilding their brush huts, weaving baskets using the strong leaves from the Santa Barbara sedge that grows in the Bear and Chalone Creek stream beds and gathering grass seeds, leafy parts of plants and plant bulbs. They returned in the fall to gather acorns.

Acorns were a major food source for the Chalone and Mutsun. After gathering and transporting the acorns in baskets and then drying them in the sun, some were then ground into meal and the rest then stored in granaries. Rabbits were hunted for food and the skins were cut into strips and woven into blankets and capes. Deer, elk, antelope, and possibly fish from the Salinas Valley were also major food sources.

Today, the Chalone and Mutsun people are working to gain tribal recognition, and continue studying and practicing their language and cultural traditions.

Spanish Missionaries

The Spanish had a dramatic impact on the Native Americans who frequented Pinnacles. They traveled into California from Mexico and eventually established 21 religious missions between 1769 and 1823, stretching from San Diego to Sonoma.

The mission closest to Pinnacles was built in Soledad in 1791. The Chalone Indians lived in the area east of Soledad Mission -- close to what is now the western side of Pinnacles National Monument.

Willingly or not, many of the Chalone and Mutsun people became neophytes (baptized mission workers); however, the mission way of life was devastating to Indian people. A combination of diseases brought by the Spaniards and harsh changes to their way of life killed many Chalone and Mutsun people, and damaged their cultures. In 1770 the Indian population in California, which was already dropping from the effects of European diseases, was estimated at 300,000. By the mid-1800s, it was cut in half.

Early Settlers

In 1891 Schuyler Hain, a homesteader, arrived in the Pinnacles area from Michigan. During the next twenty years he became known as the “Father of Pinnacles” leading tours up through Bear Valley and into the caves. Hain spoke to groups and wrote articles urging preservation of the area and acted as unofficial caretaker for many years. His efforts proved fruitful with the establishment of Pinnacles as a 2500 acre national monument in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Horace Bacon established a ranch opposite the eastern entrance and was the school master at Bear Valley School (located on Hwy 25 one mile north of the Hwy 25 and Hwy 146 junction) for twenty years.

In 1920 a one-way dirt road was constructed up to the Bear Gulch area making access to the caves easier for the increasing numbers of local residents who enjoyed camping and picnicking in the monument.

Civilian Conservation Corps

In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps established a camp in what is now the Old Pinnacles trailhead area. From 1933 to 1942, during cooler winter months, the CCC accomplished many projects. The dirt road up to Bear Gulch was widened, paved and completed in 1934. The CCC improved many of the trails that had been established by the early homesteaders, including the exciting steep and narrow trail that winds through the HighPeaks. They constructed the dam that forms the Bear Gulch reservoir and improved the trail into the caves, adding concrete steps and guard rails. Beginning in 1936 the CCC boys guided visitors through the caves using lanterns.

Present Day

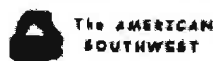
Since 1908, the Monument increased in bits and pieces to its present size of about 26,000 acres. Many visitors come to hike, picnic, birdwatch, rock climb, learn about geology and plants, see wild animals or perhaps to simply enjoy the wilderness which offers peace and quiet.



Did You Know?

National monuments are created by a presidential proclamation, and national parks are set aside by acts of Congress. Other units of the National Park System include recreation areas, seashores, national historic sites, and memorials.

Last Updated: September 18, 2006 at 10:22 EST



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Pinnacles National Natural Landmark

Sites in California

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[Joshua Tree](#)
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Searles Valley is a wide, flat expanse in the empty basin and range country towards the north of the Mojave Desert, enclosed on most sides by the huge China Lake Naval Weapons Center. Dry, barren and inordinately hot for much of the year, it was many millennia ago filled with the waters of Searles Lake to depths of up to 600 feet, evidence of which is provided by wave-cut terraces marking the former shoreline, still clearly visible on the grey hills all around. However, much more dramatic relics of the former lake are the Trona Pinnacles, a group of 500 narrow spires up to 150 feet tall formed by underwater deposition of tufa (calcium carbonate) from ancient mineral-laden springs along a fault zone on the lake bed. They now sit isolated and slowly crumbling away near the south end of the valley, surrounded by many square miles of flat, dried mud and with stark mountain ranges at either side.

Location: The pinnacles are recognized as a National Natural Landmark and are reached by CA 178, a connecting road between US 395 and CA 190, which leads into Death Valley 40 miles after **Trona**. This small town is the nearest settlement to the pinnacles and has a strange mixture of run-down shacks, elegant modern dwellings and sprawling chemical works - a large area of the valley nearby is used for extraction of salt and a variety of other minerals. The turn off to the NNL is a few miles south, along a signposted dirt/gravel track that is rather severely graded in places but otherwise ok. The road leaves CA 178 to the south, crosses a railway line then follows it for 4 miles to the edge of the formations. Several side tracks branch off around and between the cluster of rocks, and one continues, across the **Spangler Hills** and meeting a main road again a few miles further.

The Pinnacles: The spires are quite obvious even when seen from the main road and look intriguing from afar - a long line of sharp points that seem quite alien in the otherwise dead flat dry lake bed. They are perhaps best viewed from a distance as up close the mounds are dusty and weathered with rather drab colours. Walking around is interesting enough though, and the pale badlands beyond are worth exploring too. Sunsets are particularly pretty, especially viewed from the top of the small hilly area to the south, when the towers glow orange-yellow and are etched against the gaunt hills of the **Slate Range** at the eastern edge of the valley. Beyond, the Panamint Mountains rise higher still, topped by 11,000 feet Telescope Peak.

The pinnacles of the National Natural Landmark have some similarities to those at Pinnacles National Monument, an otherwise unconnected site set in wooded, hilly land near Salinas, close to California's Pacific Coast.

Hotels: 24 miles from Trona and 21 miles from the pinnacles, the desert town of

Photographs

- 4 views of Pinnacles National Natural Landmark



Wide view of the pinnacles



Badlands south of the pinnacles

Nearby Places

- Death Valley National Park (56 miles to the boundary on CA 190) - starkly beautiful desert wilderness
- Red Rock Canyon State Park (60 miles) - exposed, eroded, colorful strata

Ridgecrest offers a fair selection of hotels; one of the largest is the **Best Western China Lake Inn** at 400 S China Lake Blvd (CA 178), located in a mostly residential district though close to various shops and half a dozen restaurants. The inn is a 52 room building on 2 floors, with parking at the front and a small outdoor pool, hot tub & bbq area at the rear; all rooms contain a microwave, refrigerator, ironing facilities & a coffee maker.

Check rates at the Best Western China Lake Inn

More hotels in Ridgecrest

Satellite Photo/Map: View above the Trona Pinnacles:



Best Western China Lake Inn

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Safari of the week

First California condor egg in Pinnacles National Monument for 100 years

Captive bred condors produce egg in the wild

March 2010. Biologists at Pinnacles National Monument in California have verified the first California condor nest in the Monument in over 100 years. Condor 317, a female released at the monument as a 1 1/2 year old bird in 2004, has paired with a six year old male, Condor 318, originally released along the Big Sur coast by Ventana Wildlife Society.

Radio tracking

This is the first breeding attempt by either condor. The adult condors were tracked using radio telemetry and global positioning technology to the nest site. They were also observed performing courtship behaviors for nearly a month before an egg was confirmed.

Easily seen nest site

"We are thrilled that after being involved with the Condor Recovery Program since 2003, the park has its first nest in over 100 years," said Eric Brunnemann, Park Superintendent. "...and conveniently Condors 317 and 318 chose a nest cave that can be easily viewed by the public from the Scout Peak bench on the High Peaks Trail," continued Brunnemann. Although the areas directly around the nest cliff will be closed to public use for the duration of the nesting period, public viewing is still possible. The strenuous hike to the viewing area is approximately two miles from the closest East or West Side parking areas. From the west, the elevation gain is approximately 1100 feet, and from the east it is over 1200 feet. Directions to the viewing area are available from the Visitor Center.

A temporary closure area around the nest cliff is in effect during the 2010 breeding season. An area extending from Western Front to Goat Rock and north to the edge of the Juniper Canyon Trail will be closed to protect the nesting birds. The Juniper Canyon and High Peaks trails remain open.



Two captive bred condors have produced a chick at Pinnacles National Monument. Credit NPS



In the early 1980s, an intensive captive breeding program rescued the species from extinction and in the 1990s reestablishment efforts began in southern California.

57 days to hatch & 6 months to fledge

Biologists will be closely monitoring the nest to determine if the new parents succeed in incubating the egg and rearing a young bird to fledge from the high rocky cliff. Condor eggs take an average of 57 days to hatch. Nestlings remain flightless for an additional 5 1/2 to 6 months. Park Service biologists expect that if the new parents successfully rear a young condor, it would take its first flight in early October.

History of the Pinnacles Condor Program

Pinnacles National Monument was chosen as a California condor release site due to historical documentation of condors in the area, good cliff nesting opportunities, and large expanses of intact habitat in the region.

26 condors at the Pinnacles

There have been six groups of condors released at

Pinnacles National Monument, bringing the current total to 26 free-flying condors. 2009 marked the first year that a Pinnacles released condor nested. Condor 313 paired with Condor 303 who laid an egg in a rocky outcrop at the RS Bar Guest Ranch in southern San Benito County. Although Condor 303 died before her nestling took his first flight, the juvenile survived and continues to fly over San Benito County. With the approval of the National Park Service and others involved in the condor recovery effort, the owners and operators of the RS Bar Guest Ranch formed an unprecedented relationship with the Pinnacles Partnership, a nonprofit organization supporting the monument, so visitors could have the opportunity to take guided trips to the remote nest site, where the nesting pair and their offspring could frequently be viewed for extended periods.

National Park Biologists are working with partners at the Ventana Wildlife Society and community volunteers to build a self sustaining population of condors in central California over the next several years.

This will contribute to one of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plan goals by establishing a population in California of 150 or more condors with at least 15 breeding pairs.

History of the California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*)

Condors maintained a strong population in the American West until the mid-19th century, when shooting, poisoning from lead and strychnine, egg collecting, and general habitat degradation began to take a heavy toll. Between the

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mid-1880s and 1924, there were scattered reports of condors in Arizona. But by the late 1930s, all remaining condors were found only in California and the mid 1980's, the total population had dwindled to just 22 birds.

As a result of the continued downward spiral of the condor population, the California condor was placed on the federal endangered species list in 1967. In the early 1980s, an intensive captive breeding program rescued the species from extinction and in the 1990s reestablishment efforts began in southern California. Since that time, release sites have also been launched in northern Arizona, along the Big Sur coast, at Pinnacles National Monument, and on the Baja Peninsula in Mexico.

The current world population of California condors numbers 348. Ninety-five birds are flying free in California, eighteen in Baja Mexico, and seventy-four in Arizona. An additional 161 are in captive breeding centers.

Challenges to Condor Recovery - Lead shot

For recovery of an endangered species to succeed, it is necessary to change the conditions that lead to their decline. Egg collecting is no longer a significant threat, the effects of DDT are likely to diminish over the coming century, and poisoning of bait carcasses for predator control is no longer an established practice.

The primary threat remaining to California condor recovery is lead poisoning. Condors inadvertently ingest lead bullet fragments when animal carcasses, or their gut piles, shot with lead ammunition remain on the landscape. For this reason, the California legislature outlawed the use of lead ammunition for big game hunting and depredation within the condor's range. For more information, see:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/condor>

The Institute for Wildlife Studies (<http://www.iws.org>) works to disseminate information of the effectiveness and availability of non-lead ammunition.

Partners in Recovery

The reestablishment of California condors to Pinnacles is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (www.fws.gov), National Park Service (www.nps.gov/pinn), Ventana Wildlife Society (www.ventanaws.org), the Institute for Wildlife Studies (www.iws.org), Pinnacles Partnership (www.pinnaclespartnership.org), and community volunteers.



Condor 303 being examined after she died from lead poisoning.
Credit Ventana Wildlife Society

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The Best Place to Be a Bee



For Nature Conservancy entomologist Larry Serpa, it's like having a Serengeti in his own backyard. Except the denizens aren't gazelles, zebras and wildebeests, they're native bees.

"I was stunned when I learned that Pinnacles has 10 percent of the country's native bee species," Serpa said. "I wouldn't have thought it possible for such a relatively small area to have 10 percent of any animal or plant groups — birds, orchids, frogs, ferns, anything."

Located between the Salinas and Central Valleys, Pinnacles National Monument is home to spectacular rock formations that attract climbers from around the nation. It's also home to an abundance of indigenous plants and animals. In 2006, the Conservancy protected the 1,967-acre Pinnacles Ranch and transferred it to the National Park Service for inclusion in the monument. The chaparral and grasslands found on the ranch would have been cleared to make way for a residential subdivision.

A Bee of a Different Color

While rock climbers flock to Pinnacles to scale dramatic heights, entomologists like Serpa are drawn in by the spectacular diversity of native pollinators. More than 400 native bee species buzz around Pinnacles' 26,000 acres. There are black bees and yellow bees; variegated bees, iridescent green bees and bees that glint like burnished bronze. There are fuzzy bees, smooth bees, gumball-size bees and bees no bigger than an anise seed.

Bees favor Pinnacles because of the monument's wide array of native plants — and vice versa. Unlike non-indigenous honey bees, which are all-inclusive in their food preferences, many native bees target specific plants for pollen and nectar; these plants, in turn, depend on particular bees for pollination.

Some native plants, of course, attract a wide variety of species. Buckwheat bush, for example, is a veritable smorgasbord for indigenous pollinators. When the bush's papery, off-white blooms fully open, they are swarmed with scores of different species, all avidly burrowing for pollen.

Native bees differ from honey bees in another way: Other than bumblebees, the vast majority of native species eschew colony life. Most feed on wildflowers from late winter to midsummer; the adults then die, and the pupae



Larry Serpa has been an employee of The Nature Conservancy's California Program since 1976. As a project ecologist, he works in the field to assess biodiversity and plan for the management and monitoring of protected lands and waters. He specializes in aquatic ecology and insects. Serpa holds a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that allows him to work with seven endangered and threatened species, and he is the primary authority on several other rare species, including the Santa Rosa Plateau fairy shrimp and Delta green ground beetle. He holds M.A. and B.A. degrees in biology from Sonoma State University. When not roaming the outdoors in search of the elusive giant stuffed bee species (photo above), Serpa enjoys educating people about California's unique ecology.

Get Involved

JOIN NOW — IT'S FREE

You can learn more and explore new places when you join the Conservancy's online community and build your own *personalized* nature page.

"...we must ensure that enough of the critical lands are used in ways that will benefit native pollinators."

— Larry Serpa, Conservancy entomologist.

Go Deeper

lie dormant in burrows until the autumn and early winter rains.

A Bee-autiful Future?

Though Pinnacles' bee populations generally seem robust, their future is clouded. The monument is an island of wildness surrounded by agricultural and grazing land. Residential development is intruding from the north and west. Habitat conversion means the destruction of native plants; and as the plants go, so go the bees.

"This incredible bee diversity must be protected," said Serpa. "Pinnacles can't stand alone as an island. If surrounding lands are developed, the wealth of Pinnacles' bee species will slowly drain away."

Scientists say the bees' future can be secured through cooperative agreements with neighboring ranchers. Hedgerows, conservation reserve areas and even plantings of native plants could help keep Pinnacles well-stocked with bees.

"The monument is within the borders of our Mount Hamilton Project, an area that covers 1.2 million acres," Serpa said. "We know it will be difficult to protect it all — but we must ensure that enough of the critical lands are used in ways that will benefit native pollinators."

Right now The Nature Conservancy is targeting more properties around the monument for protection through acquisition or conservation easements. In addition to Pinnacles Ranch, in recent years we've protected 12,000-acre Gabilan Ranch, which lies north of the monument and provides bees, condors and other Pinnacles roamers room to move. Such connectivity is crucial to long-lasting conservation success.

Mount Hamilton Project

The Conservancy's Mount Hamilton project covers 1.2 million acres of the last significant expanse of wilderness between the San Francisco Bay Area and the Great Central Valley. To prevent encroaching development from fragmenting the region, the Conservancy is working with willing landowners and public agencies to create a large ring of protection around a key portion of the Diablo Range.



Learn more

- [Mount Hamilton](#)
- [Pinnacles Ranch](#)
- [Gabilan Ranch](#)
- [Pinnacles National Monument](#)

Support our efforts to protect Mount Hamilton.

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Thank you for helping to save the Last Great Places on Earth.

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Vision for tomorrow's Pinnacles takes shape

Friday, April 06, 2007

By Mark Paxton

Meetings begin public input process for new park plan

The staff at Pinnacles National Monument recently completed four public gatherings to take comments for the park's new general management plan.

At the end, there were no wild suggestions for the likes of escalators along the steeper portions of the High Peaks Trail.

"None of the ideas were along the lines of 'let's have rollercoasters and water slides,'" said Carl Brenner, supervisor for interpretation and education at the park. "Comments were definitely in line with the vision of the park service."

Even so, conforming with the park service is hardly required.

"If we don't know what people truly want, then we can't move in directions that people want us to," Brenner said. "There are no bad suggestions. Everything gets put on the board."

The meetings took place through March, beginning in Soledad and ending at Santa Clara University. Other sites were Hollister and Jefferson School, near the east entrance to the 26,000-plus acre park.

The general management plan guides the direction of the park for many years. The last plan for Pinnacles was completed in 1976. While plans are often updated more frequently, the 1976 plan worked at Pinnacles because the park was not expanding, and unanticipated issues did not come up.

Things began to change with the acquisition of a parcel known as the Pinnacles Ranch and the campground that it contained at the east entrance of the park. Coupled with a high-profile recovery effort for the California condor, Pinnacles is evolving dramatically as it approaches its 100th birthday next year.

While the public information-gathering sessions are over, people still have the chance to comment, either through the Internet at www.nps.gov/pinn, or by sending comments to General Management Plan Team, Pinnacles National Monument, 5000 Hwy. 146, Paicines, CA 95043.

The plan that's now taking shape was first launched in 1998, and comments from the public meetings held then are on the park Web site. But the undertaking was shelved until acquisition of the Pinnacles Ranch was completed. That deal was inked in March 2006.

The meetings, most of them lightly attended, were strategically located to capture different communities of interest.

In Soledad, the focus was on the park's less visited west side.

For the last decade or more, the park staff has been working as funds permit to move facilities on the west side of the park.

"The whole [existing] area is in a riparian floodplain" Brenner said. "In 1998 the whole area was flooded. We had received funding to move facilities to higher ground, and work was supposed to begin in April of last year. But funding was pulled. [Hurricane] Katrina and other factors created greater needs and the service had to redirect funds. We're back on track and supposed to begin in 2008."

Some users would like to see camping areas re-established on the side of the park closest to Soledad.

"Hollister was mostly focused on the east side of the park and what we could do with the ranchlands there," Brenner said.

Suggestions ran the gamut, from creation of new trails to opportunities for bicyclists.

One of the most intriguing ideas may have come at the Santa Clara session, where an environmental law student suggested that the east side camping area be reconfigured into a network of small clusters of sites, insulated from one another by habitat and open



The valleys of San Juan and Salinas can be seen from vistas at Pinnacles National Monument.



A new master plan will decide the fate of Pinnacles National Monument.

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space.

Like all other suggestions, the idea is getting consideration.

"It takes up a larger area," Brenner explained. He also noted that the existing layout of the campground is familiar.

"[Former owner] Stu Kingman mimicked it after national park campgrounds," he said.

The buildings and facilities borrow cues from parks across the West.

While park staff anticipated some apprehension on the part of the public, the meetings brought out mostly stakeholders who know and love the park's remote crags and steep canyons.

The monument was established in 1908 because of several unique features. It contains the remnant of an ancient volcano that was split between the Pacific and North American tectonic plates. The other half of the formation is in the Tehachapi Mountains, according to park interpreters.

The cave complex is the largest assemblage of talus caverns - caves formed by jumbles of fallen rock - in the national park system. The remoteness of the place offers haven to a host of wildlife. For example, the greatest documented diversity of bee species in the world is found at Pinnacles.

When the public comment period closes at the end of May, park service staff will begin an intensive data analysis and survey the park's resources as they exist today. By the end of the year, the staff expects to have a list of alternative approaches out to the public, leading to a draft general management plan back to the public for review in 2009, when a blueprint for the park's evolution should be in place.



Mark Paxton
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mpaxton@pinnaclenews.com

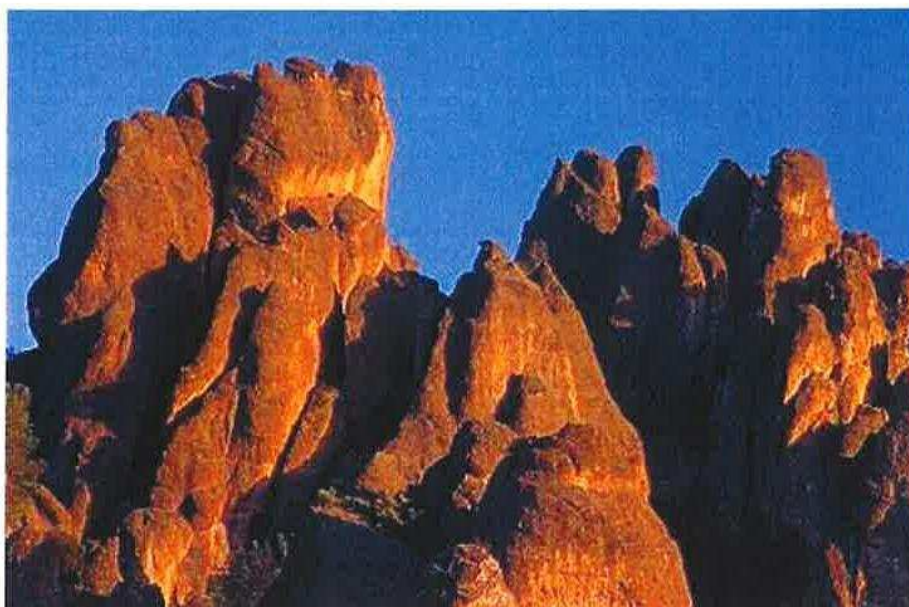
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Posted November 18th, 2009 by [Kurt Repanshek](#)



The National Park Service opposes renaming Pinnacles National Monument as a "national park." Photo of the High Peaks by Clayton Mansnerus via NPS.



A congressional effort to have [Pinnacles National Monument](#) redesignated as a "national park" is opposed by the National Park Service because the monument contains a limited array of resources.

U.S. Rep. Sam Farr of California believes the monument's 14,500 acres with their unique geology and many species that are either threatened or endangered at the state or federal level deserve the title.

"Upgrading Pinnacles to a national park makes sense for historic, natural and economic reasons," the Democrat said Friday back in August. "This area is much more

than rock formations. It's a huge swatch of land with historical significance for the state, it provides an important refuge for the California condor and it has great potential for tourism revenue."

The monument is one of the oldest ones in the National Park System, having been designated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. It received its name from "rock spires and crags that are remnants of an ancient volcano," notes the National Park Service. "The volcano eroded over millions of years as it moved northward along the San Andreas Fault. Rock debris in the form of boulders has weathered and settled, leaving behind spires of volcanic rock and talus caves."

However, when the measure came up Tuesday before the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands the Park Service opposed the name change.

"The monument has truly extraordinary natural resources and has played a crucial role in the reintroduction of the California condor to its traditional range in California. However, under longstanding practice, the term 'national park' has generally been reserved for units that contain a variety of resources and encompasses large land or water areas to help provide adequate protection of the resources. Pinnacles National Monument does not include the full range of resources usually found in national parks," said Steve Whitesell, the agency's associate director for park planning, facilities, and lands.

"Additionally, the department has been reviewing the recommendations recently made by the National Parks Second Century Commission," he continued. "One of the recommendations is to substantially reduce the more than two dozen different park titles currently used for units of the National Park System. In response to this recommendation, a departmental task force will be looking at a comprehensive plan for renaming many of our park units. This effort will be particularly important for determining which units are appropriate candidates for the title 'national park,' which is sought by supporters of some other units throughout the country that are not currently designated as such. Under a nomenclature with fewer titles, it is possible that Pinnacles and other units with similar characteristics should have 'national park' in their title. However, until the task force's work has been completed, we request that the committee not act on legislation to rename any units as national parks."

In promoting his bill, Rep. Farr told the subcommittee the national monument is more than meets the eye.

"The park is unique in our country for a variety of reasons. It is one of the few regions in the world that boasts a Mediterranean climate; it serves as home for dozens of federally protected species; it has a long, rich cultural history; it serves as a center for geological science, it's an area of unspoiled beauty; and opening this summer thanks to the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase the Pinnacles Ranch the Pinnacles Campground is now within the boundaries of Pinnacles National Monument, and is managed by a concessionaire," he said.

Additionally, said the Democrat, his office has started talks with an adjacent landowner who would be interested in selling 18,000 to the government for addition

to the monument, a move that would boost its overall size to 44,000 acres.

"I bring this to the Subcommittee's attention because this future addition to the Pinnacles system will add a parcel of land rich in wildlife, land and water resources along with a four-mile stretch of the San Benito River and numerous springs," said Rep. Farr. "This property also nests condor 514, the first condor hatched in the county in at least 70 years. This magnificent bird recently took his first flight over historic condor breeding grounds in the San Benito back country."

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Comments

[y_p_w](#)

On November 18th, 2009

I hope this doesn't happen. I just don't see Pinnacles as worthy of "National Park" status. I enjoyed my visit there, but it just doesn't seem to fit the profile.

[reply](#)

[CaliforniaWild](#) (not verified)

On November 18th, 2009

Thanks for the coverage about this important effort. However, the Park Service in yesterday's hearing did not out-right oppose the re-designation of Pinnacles to a national park. The agency simply requested that the decision be delayed until the completion of their study on how they designate their parcels. Rep. Farr is working to ensure local voices are heard and local voices strongly support Pinnacles National Park.

[reply](#)

[MikeD](#)

On November 18th, 2009

Kurt, as CW posted, the hearing testimony did not include the bit about opposing the re-designation. You must be quoting something else (the prepared testimony?). Please let us know if you have a link to whatever you're quoting.

But that aside... I wonder about this argument that they should wait for the Second Century's recommendations before renaming anything. Seems to me this is either:

1. A stalling tactic, hoping that the proposal dies before then.

[reply](#)

MikeD

On November 18th, 2009

Thanks Kurt. I was watching the actual video and Whitesell did not mention anything then about opposing the designation. Of course prepared remarks are always longer, but I wonder if leaving that out in the spoken remarks was intentional. :)

http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&Itemid=58&extmode=view&extid=310

Agree on the second point, and wonder about what new national parks would exist under the new designation, and of course whether some others would lose that status, which would be by far the much trickier part.

[reply](#)

tomp

On November 18th, 2009

I'm not sure that NPS wants to stick their neck out too far in opposing almost anything in congress unless it has a major impact on NPS resources. While it isn't quite "salute and obey", legislative enemies are to be avoided. Perhaps a fair summary was that the NPS testimony did not actively support the redesignation, and suggested waiting for a more rational overhaul of NPS designations?

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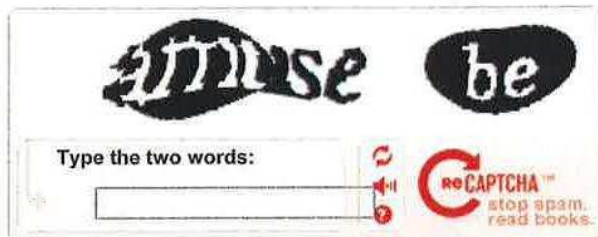


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Senate Committee Approves Interior Appropriations Bill

June 10, 2005



Washington, DC - The Senate Appropriations Committee today approved the FY '06 Interior Appropriations Bill that includes \$4 million for California fire safe councils, \$1.44 million for conservation and monitoring of San Francisco Bay Salt Ponds, and \$375,000 for perchlorate treatment.

"This bill reflects today's tough budgetary times," Senator Feinstein said. **"As our nation goes deeper and deeper into debt, it will be increasingly difficult to fund all of our nation's priorities. This is primarily a result of two things—the President's tax cuts, which will cost \$2.3 trillion over the next 10 years, and the war in Iraq, which up to this point, has cost \$210 billion."**

"But nevertheless, let me highlight California priorities, which I am pleased received funding in the bill – fire safe councils, conservation of San Francisco Bay Area Salt Ponds, and remediation of perchlorate contamination."

"Fire safe councils are a critical part of the effort to prevent catastrophic fires in California. Their job is to identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuels reduction and recommend measures to reduce the fire hazard to homes, businesses, and other buildings throughout the community. They give communities a voice in the decision making process and help ensure that they get needed funding. So I want to encourage all at-risk communities at risk to set up these councils and help protect their residents and businesses from fire."

"The funding for salt pond conservation and monitoring is the next step in the public-private partnership to restore 16,500 acres of salt ponds in the San Francisco Bay, the largest wetlands restoration in our State's history. This partnership will benefit generations of Californians to come and may serve as a model for future environmental restoration projects."

"While I think the funding to clean up perchlorate in California is a step in the right direction, this money is just a drop in the bucket. Perchlorate has contaminated over 350 water sources in California and the drinking water sources of at least 34 states. In the next few years, the Federal Government will have to spend much more to ensure that drinking water is safe in California and other states facing perchlorate contamination."

California priorities funded in the bill include:

- \$4 million for California Fire Safe Councils
- \$900,000 for San Francisco Bay Salt Ponds Monitoring

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Domestic Assistance

- \$540,000 for Conservation work at Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge
- \$4,350,000 for San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park (Sala Burton Maritime Building Renovations)
- \$1 million for Baxter Ranch Conservation Easement, Sonoma County
- \$19,722,000 for the Presidio Trust
- \$375,000 for Central California Air Quality Studies
- \$26.4 million for the Quincy Library Group project

State and Tribal Assistance Grants

- \$375,000 for Perchlorate Treatment in the City of Pasadena
- \$375,000 for City of Santa Paula Water Recycling Facility Project
- \$375,000 for City of Eureka, Martin Slough Interceptor Project
- \$375,000 for Crescent City Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion

Land Acquisition

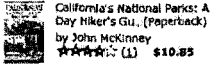
- \$1 million for Smith River National Recreation Area, Goose Creek
- \$525,000 for Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- \$500,000 for Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument
- \$500,000 for Tahoe National Forest, Middle Yuba/Barker Pass
- \$3 million for Pinnacles Ranch acquisition for Pinnacles National Monument
- \$1 million for Six Rivers to the Sea, Phase 2 Acquisitions
- \$1.7 million for San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge Land
- \$500,000 for Pacific Crest Trail Land Acquisition

National Parks -- Maintenance

- \$4,794,000 for Pinnacles National Monument Visitors Center Relocation
- 2,169,000 for Redwood National Park Roads Removal
- \$696,000 for Lake Tahoe Basin Management (Fallen Leaf Water System Improvements)
- \$598,000 for Los Padres National Forest, Temescal Station Renovation
- \$629,000 for Stanislaus National Forest, Pinecrest Engine Bay & Offices Project
- \$2,176,000 for Yosemite, El Portal Wastewater Plant
- \$482,000 for Six Rivers National Forest, Orleans Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

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California's National Parks: A Day Hiker's Guide

In keeping with the wilderness designations, the Park Service only minimally maintains North Wilderness Trail. Signs are sparse, though metal fence posts do mark the path. Expect a steep, brush crowded, sketchy-in-spots trail, as well as a dense creek crossing.

As described, this walk begins at Chaparral Ranger Station. You could also make a similar loop beginning from Chulona Creek Picnic Area. Add another 2 miles to the total distance.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD From Highway 101 in Soledad, take the Soledad/ Highway 146 exit eastbound. Drive 12 miles to the Chaparral Ranger Station and parking area. At the end of the parking lot, follow the trail to the walk-in campground. The path begins at a break in the fence.

THE HIKE The path leads through grassland, then climbs a ridge line, serving up good views of the monument.

Some 3.5 miles from the trailhead, North Wilderness Trail turns east and you begin a steep descent along the north fork of Chulona Creek. You'll make several creek crossings, traveling from bank to bank amidst a riparian mixture of cottonwood, willow, oak and sycamore. Three-and-a-half more miles of hiking bring you to a junction with Old Trail.

Turn west up this wide path and begin a gentle 1.2-mile climb along the west fork of Chulona Creek to a junction. Balconies Cliff Trail (0.8 mile) offers good views of the Balconies while Balconies Cave Trail (0.4 mile) travels right through the caves.

The two paths meet, and a final 0.6 mile on Balconies Trail leads you back to the Chaparral trailhead.



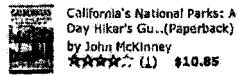
BEAR GULCH CAVES
Moose Spring Trail
2-miles round trip

Bear Gulch Cave is easily the national monument's most popular walk. The cave (caves, actually) formed long time ago when huge boulders slowly worked their way down from the walls above and wedged atop a narrow gulch.

You can reach the caves via Moose Spring Trail, a self-guided nature trail. Keyed to an interpretive pamphlet (available from the Visitor Center), this path introduces the monument's major ecological communities--Foothill Wood land, Riparian, Chaparral and Rock, and Scrub.

Whether you can visit any, some, or all of Bear Gulch Cave is linked to Park Service management policies concerning the special residents of the caves--a colony of Townsend's big-eared bats. When the bats are not using the cave for hibernation or pupping, some access to the cave is permitted.

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parking lot at National Monument. The trail to High Peaks leaves from the east side of the park entry road.

THE HIKE Juniper Canyon Trail meanders along Oak Tree Spring Creek, which is frozen in winter. The path passes scattered oaks and begins a series of switchbacks among large rocks. After more than a mile of steep ascent, you can catch your breath at the junction with High Peaks Trail. There's a bench here, from which the resting hiker can get grand views of the surrounding high peaks.

The trail steepens, heading for the "Steep and Narrow," a sharp ridge crest in the heart of the High Peaks. Pipe handrails fastened to the stone help you negotiate the narrow trail. You'll head up and down staircases hewn into the rock by Civilian Conservation Corps workers of the 1930s. The half a mile or so of trail snaking among the peaks is terrific—unless of course you're afraid of heights.

Emerging from the high peaks with a great view eastward of the San Andreas fault zone and of nearby Chalone Creek Valley. Pass an intersection with Condor Gulch Trail, which leads down to Bear Gulch Visitor Center at the east-side entrance of the park. Stay with High Peaks Trail toward Chalone Creek Picnic Ground.

Leaving the rocky spires behind, descend through oak-dotted grassland. This stretch of trail displays a profusion of wildflowers in spring. The trail drops past some glassy-looking volcanic outcroppings and through chaparral to the bridge over Chalone Creek and the signed junction with Old Trail, which follows the west fork of Chalone Creek. The trail ascends very gently beneath the boughs of gray pine and occasionally crosses the creek.

Springtime wildflower displays are lovely near the creek. In mid-winter, the large pear-shaped pods of the California huckleberry enlarge and split open to release large chestnut-like seeds; in May and June snowy-white flowers blossom on the long, erect spikes of the plant.

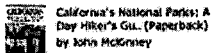
As the trail bends south, you'll come to a signed intersection. A trail on your right leads up to the Balconies Cliffs, while the one straight ahead leads to Balconies Caves. Head into the caves.

The caves were formed when boulders, loosened by erosion and earthquakes, slowly moved down into this very narrow canyon, forming a roof over it. Running water enlarged the caves.

Emerging from the caves, join the Balconies self-guided nature trail. If you have the Park Service pamphlet, you can learn about everything from volcanism to lichen, as you return to the trailhead.

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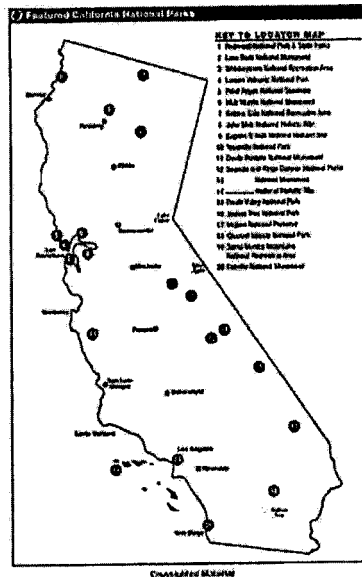
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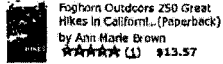
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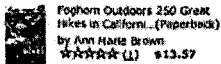
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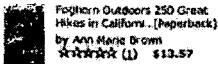
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- March**
Cabrillo, Channel Islands, Death Valley, Joshua Tree, Mojave, Muir Woods, Point Reyes, Redwood, Sequoia (southern foothills area), Yosemite (Valley for waterfalls)
- April**
Cabrillo, Channel Islands, Death Valley, Joshua Tree, Lava Beds, Mojave, Muir Woods, Point Reyes, Redwood, Sequoia (southern foothills area), Yosemite (Valley for waterfalls)
- May**
Cabrillo, Channel Islands, Kings Canyon, Lava Beds, Muir Woods, Pinnacles, Point Reyes, Redwood, Sequoia (southern foothills area), Yosemite
- June**
Cabrillo, Channel Islands, Devils Postpile, Kings Canyon, Lassen, Lava Beds, Point Reyes, Redwood, Sequoia, Yosemite
- July**



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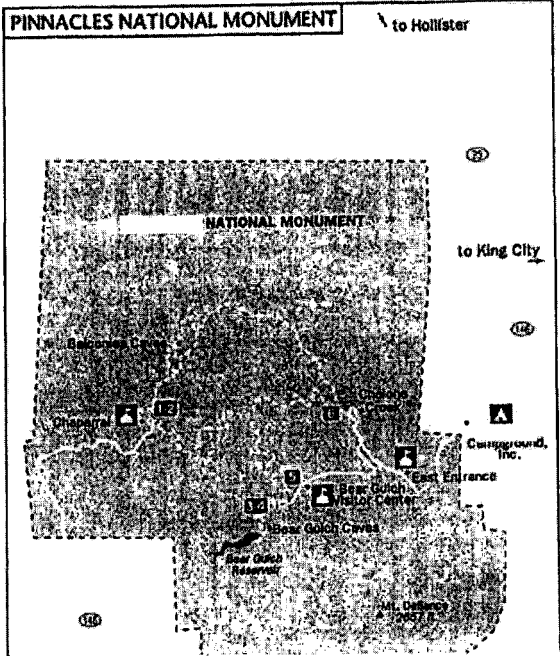
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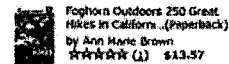
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National Monument Trails at a Glance


Trail Name	Page	Mileage	Difficulty
1. Juniper Canyon, High Peaks, and Old Loop	192	8.4	Moderate
2. Balconies Caves	194	2.4	Easy
3. Bear Gulch Caves	196	2.0	Easy
4. North Chalone Peak	198	8.4	Strenuous
5. Condor Gulch and High Peaks Loop	200	5.0	Moderate
6. Old Trail and Balconies Caves	202	5.6	Easy

The Top 3 Don't-Miss Day Hikes:

Trail Name	Page	Features
1. Juniper Canyon, High Peaks, and Old Loop	192	tour of park highlights
4. North Chalone Peak	198	fire lookout, views
5. Condor Gulch and High Peaks Loop	200	rock climb

If You Only Have One Day:

Trail Name	Page	Features
2. Balconies Caves	194	cave explorations
3. Bear Gulch Caves	196	cave explorations
5. Condor Gulch and High Peaks Loop	200	rock climb



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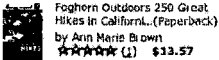
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About the Park
The striking cliffs, crags, and rock formations of Pinnacles National Monument were formed by an ancient volcano that erupted 200 miles to the southeast. Movement along the San Andreas Fault carried these formations to their current location amid the rolling grasslands and low hills of the Salinas Valley. Highlights of the monument include its caves (Balcones and Bear Gulch), its many rock-climbing sites, and its well-built trails over and around the rocky landscape.

Address, Phone, and Website
National Monument, 5000 Highway 146, Palmdale, CA 95043, 831/389-4485, website: www.nps.gov/pinn.

Visitor Centers
The monument's main visitor center is located on the east side of the monument at Bear Gulch. There is a smaller ranger station/visitor center on the west side of the monument at Chaparral.

How to Get There
• **By air:** The closest major airport is in San Jose, California.
• **By car:** No roads connect the east and west sides of the park. You can hike from one side to the other, but you can't drive through. When planning your trip, consider which side of the park you want to have vehicle access to, then follow the directions accordingly.
West/Chaparral Entrance: From Salinas, drive south on U.S. 101 for 22 miles to Soledad and take the Soledad/Highway 146 exit. Drive east on Highway 146 for 12 miles. (The road is signed for West Highway 146 dead-ends at the Chaparral Ranger Station and trailhead.



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Entrance Fees

There is a \$5 entrance fee per vehicle at National Monument, good for seven days. A annual pass is available for \$15. A National Parks Pass, an annual pass for all 389 national park units, is available for \$50. A Golden Age Passport, a lifetime pass for all 389 national park units, is available to U.S. citizens and residents aged 62 and over for a one-time \$10 fee. You can purchase these passes at the park entrance stations or visitor center.

When to Go

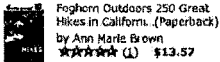
The best season in National Monument is from October to late April. Summer is too hot for comfortable hiking. The winter months are less crowded than spring or fall, but they also bring a chance of rain. Spring wildflowers are superb.

Weather Conditions

National Monument has a semiarid climate. May through September days can have temperatures higher than 100 degrees; other months of the year are cooler and mild. Expect possible rain from November to March. The general rule for hiking in the park: Wear or carry a variety of layers. Expect extreme heat in the summer.

Where to Stay

National Monument closed its main campground in 1998. The only camping presently available is at a private campground just outside the monument called Campground Inc. Campsites may be reserved in advance; phone 831/389-4462. There is no lodging within the park; the nearest motels are in Soledad or Hollister.



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Directions

From Salinas, drive south on U.S. 101 for 22 miles to Soledad and take the Soledad/Highway 146 exit. Drive east on Highway 146 for 12 miles. (The road is signed for West .) Highway 146 dead-ends at the Chaparral Ranger Station and trailhead parking lot.

2. BALCONIES CAVES

Chaparral (west) side, National Monument
A cave exploration for nonspelunkers

Level: Easy Crowds: Moderate Rating: ★★★★★

Distance: 2.4 miles round-trip; 1.5 hours

Elevation: Start at 1,400 feet; total change 300 feet

Best Season: October to May

If you're coming from U.S. 101 and the western edge of California, the west side of National Monument is a heck of a lot easier to get to than the east side. But if you're disappointed to learn that the famous Bear Gulch Caves can only be accessed from the east side of the park, don't despair. The west side has its own caves—the Balconies Caves—and like the Bear Gulch Caves, they are a barrel of fun. Got your flashlights? Good, then you're ready. No spelunking experience is necessary.

From the trailhead near Chaparral Ranger Station, set off on the Balconies Trail, following the often dry West Fork of Chalone Creek to the northeast toward the soaring cliffs of Machete Ridge. The sound of the

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side the cave to listen to the drip-drip of water on the rock walls, and to feel the cool air on your skin.

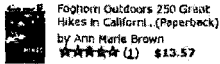
The caves at this park—Balconies Caves and Bear Gulch Caves—are not limestone caverns like many of California's caves, or lava tubes like the caves at Lava Beds National Monument. Instead, 'caves were formed by rhyolitic rocks that were altered by water erosion. Over millions of years, running water slowly eroded deep, narrow canyons amid the giant volcanic outcrops of the cles. Simultaneously, huge boulderlike chunks of these outcrops fragmented, broke off, and fell into the canyons. In many cases, the boulders were too large to fit inside the canyons, so they laid on top, forming a "roof" and creating the tunnels of the caves.

At Balconies Caves, there are two separate cave sections to explore. In between them you come out into the daylight, then traverse a short stretch in which you must duck underneath boulders that are stuck in a crevice between two cliffs.



ducking out of Balconies Caves

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3. BEAR GULCH CAVES

Bear Gulch (east) side, National Monument
The monument's most popular attraction

Level: Easy **Crowds:** Heavy **Rating:** ★★★★★
Distance: 2.0 miles round-trip; 1 hour
Elevation: Start at 1,300 feet; total change 250 feet
Best Season: October to May
Note: An interpretive brochure for the Moses Spring Trail is available at the trailhead or the visitor center.

Bear Gulch Caves are a crowd-pleaser at National Monument. Sure, the park has terrific hiking trails, hundreds of first-class rock-climbing sites, abundant spring wildflowers, and fascinating geological features. But what many visitors want to do is explore Bear Gulch Caves.

That's partly because many of them have waited so long to do so. From 1997 until 2003, the Bear Gulch Caves were closed continually, sometimes due to flooding, but mostly to protect the endangered bats that nested inside. But a new policy goes into effect in 2004 in which the Park Service plans to use a system of rates to keep





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Natural Resource Technical Report NPS/SFAN/NRTR—2009/192



ON THE COVER

Prairie Falcon Nestling, South Balconies.

Photograph by: Gavin Emmons, San Francisco Bay Area Network Inventory and Monitoring Program.

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Natural Resource Technical Report NPS/SFAN/NRTR—2009/192

Gavin Emmons
National Park Service
Pinnacles National Monument
5000 Highway 146
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March 2009

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Executive Summary

Pinnacles National Monument (“Pinnacles”) provides a diverse habitat for numerous cliff-nesting raptors, including prairie falcons (*Falco mexicanus*), peregrine falcons (*F. peregrinus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), as well as a spectacular array of summits and cliff-wall routes for rock-climbers. This monitoring effort was established to determine long-term trends in the number of occupied territories and productivity of nesting prairie falcons. Data on presence and diversity of other nesting raptors are also collected. The effort grew out of a need to reduce potential disturbance that climbers and off-trail hikers may have on cliff-nesting raptors. This report summarizes the results from the 2008 breeding season and represents the 22nd year of monitoring at the monument.

To monitor prairie falcons, field technicians survey potential nest sites three times per breeding season spaced 21-28 days apart. Nests determined to be active were revisited to confirm rearing of nestlings and fledging of young. In 2008, monitoring was conducted from 13 January 2008 until 11 July 2008.

This year represented the 2nd least productive year for prairie falcon nesting in the past 22 years. Twelve territorial falcon pairs were documented this year with 5 pairs actively nesting. Of the 12 observed hatchlings, all were confirmed to have fledged. Breeding productivity during the 2008 breeding season was also low for other raptor species nesting in the monument, with 18 nests representing 9 raptor species. A peregrine falcon pair successfully nested and fledged 3 young in the Hawkins territory, marking the 4th consecutive year that a successful peregrine falcon nesting effort has been documented at Pinnacles in the last 50 years. Two golden eagle nests were observed this year. One known nest in the monument produced 1 egg but failed to produce any hatchlings. A historically documented nest just outside of the monument produced 2 eaglets, with fledging confirmed for 1 young but likely for both. Nests for sensitive California species were recorded this season for long-eared owls (*Asio otus*), Cooper’s hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*), and sharp-shinned hawks (*A. striatus*). Two long-eared owl nests were documented. One nest failed due to predation or abandonment, and the other produced 2 hatchlings, with fledging possible but unconfirmed for both. Other nesting raptor species documented in the monument included red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), red-shouldered hawks (*B. lineatus*), and American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*), with low productivity and numbers of nesting pairs observed for all 3. One non-nesting territorial pair of white-tailed kites (*Elanus leucurus*) was documented in the monument this year.

2008 marked the 5th year that captive-bred California condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) were active and free-flying at Pinnacles, with up to 37 condors active from Grassy Canyon to the High Peaks, and moving between Pinnacles and Big Sur on the coast throughout the season. Although no condor pairs have bred at Pinnacles, condors were observed displacing golden eagles, turkey vultures, and corvids from the Grassy Canyon condor feeding sites.

Acknowledgements

This program would not be as successful as it is without the eyes and ears of helpful Pinnacles employees. Therefore, I would like to thank the NPS employees for their help, encouragement, and passion for the raptors and wildlife diversity at Pinnacles. The many local climbers involved with Friends of Pinnacles also deserve my thanks for their ongoing support of resource protection and breeding raptors at the park and particularly their efforts to publicize and honor advisories in effect. Additionally, members of Friends of Pinnacles played a key role in shaping the success of the Rockpile Rendezvous centennial event this year. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the monument visitors, for their reports and observations on raptor sightings and for their appreciation and value of the importance of monitoring, managing, and protecting the nesting sites and breeding productivity of raptors in the monument.

I would like to thank Alacia Welch, Jim Petterson, Daniel George, Scott Scherbinski, Paul Johnson, Brent Johnson, Tim and Linda Regan, Christian Hellwig, William Wright, and Keir Morse for contributing valuable observations on raptor territories and pair behavior in the monument. I also thank Erika Williams for her efforts in detailing accurate raptor/climbing advisories and her assistance in organizing and printing raptor monitoring and advisory brochures and bulletin board posters. I am also grateful for Denise Louie's support particularly during Jim Petterson's absence, and her efforts, in tandem with Marcus Koenen as the network I&M Coordinator, to keep the Pinnacles raptor monitoring program funded annually and, as of this year, on a permanent basis. Paul Johnson and Marcus Koenen also served as editors of the 2008 annual report and Amy Fesnock peer-reviewed the report, contributing greatly to a concise and efficient document consistent with I&M standards.

As the network I&M Data Manager, Dave Press deserves my thanks for his ongoing efforts in developing more effective data entry and management models for recording, storing, and archiving raptor monitoring data for Pinnacles. The following staff shared their experience, excitement, and observations of raptors with me throughout the season, granting me a more complete picture of raptor breeding and diversity at the monument, and assisted in the effective management of raptor advisory areas: Brett Hergert, Debbie Simmons, Linda Grant, Leticia Ruiz, Lori Frusetta, Eric Brunnemann, and Albert Faria.

Introduction

Pinnacles National Monument (“Pinnacles”) is a National Park Service unit located in the Gabilan Mountains of Central California, and provides a diverse habitat for cliff-nesting raptor species, including sensitive species such as prairie falcons (*Falco mexicanus*), peregrine falcons (*F. peregrinus*), and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*). The dramatic landscapes, extensive trails, arrays of summits, and cliff-wall routes at Pinnacles are also used intensively for recreation by rock-climbers and hikers.

Many scientific studies have documented the negative impacts of human disturbance of raptor nest and roost sites, and the resulting nest failures and territorial abandonment associated with these disturbances. Nesting raptor species at Pinnacles sensitive to human disturbance include prairie falcons (Fyfe et al. 1976; Ogden and Hornocker 1977; Harmata et al. 1978; Sitter 1983; Steenhof 1998), peregrine falcons (particularly in remote locations: see Hickey 1942; Bond 1946; Hickey 1969; Steenhof 1998), golden eagles (Newton 1979, 1990; Scott 1985; Steidl et al. 1993; Watson 1997; Steenhof et al. 1997; Kochert et al. 1999), sharp-shinned hawks (Delannoy and Cruz 1988), and long-eared owls (Marks 1986; Marti and Marks 1989; Bloom 1994).

Prairie falcons nest in particularly high numbers at Pinnacles, with an average of 9.5 nesting pairs per year documented from 1984-2007 (see Table 4). Studies of prairie falcon nest occupancy and productivity have also shown the species to be especially sensitive to human disturbance from mining (Becker and Ball 1981; Bednarz 1984), recreation (Boyce 1982), agriculture (USDI 1979), habitat destruction and nest site limitation (Becker and Ball 1981; Steenhof et al. 1997), and proximity to major roadways (Platt 1974; Boyce 1982).

The main sources of human disturbance of nesting raptors at Pinnacles are visitors that are rock-climbing and hiking on- and off-trail in the monument. Scientific studies have consistently suggested that these recreation activities can be balanced against raptor nesting by establishing closure or advisory areas that act as buffers between human activity and raptor nesting during the breeding season (Fyfe et al. 1976; Olsen and Olsen 1978; Becker and Ball 1980; Suter and Jones 1981; Porter et al. 1987; Holthuijzen 1990; Cade et al. 1996; White et al. 2002). Therefore, the primary management objective of the Pinnacles raptor monitoring program is to establish climbing/hiking advisories in core areas (high visitor-use areas) each breeding season and monitor prairie falcon population status as a way to protect cliff-nesting raptor species from human disturbance.

Monitoring efforts began initially to establish annual climbing/hiking advisories in core areas. The program established two long-term monitoring objectives to:

- Track changes in the total numbers of territorial prairie falcon pairs in core areas and non-core areas.

- Track changes in average annual productivity (young of year hatched/pair, young of year at banding age/pair, young of year fledged/pair) in core areas and non-core areas.

Core areas are locations at Pinnacles suitable for prairie falcon cliff-nesting where climbing impacts could occur, based on the presence of historic climbing routes accessible to visitors. Non-core areas refer to all other areas within Pinnacles suitable for cliff-nesting. The core vs. non-core sampling design is detailed further in the Methods section. Locations of the core areas are depicted on a map of Pinnacles (see Figure 1).

A side benefit of the monitoring program is that a substantial amount of information can also be gathered on other raptor species at Pinnacles, particularly sensitive California species that may be impacted by human presence and disturbance in riparian habitats: Cooper's hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*), sharp-shinned hawks (*A. striatus*), white-tailed kites (*Elanus leucurus*), and long-eared owls (*Asio otus*). Although lack of consistent nesting data for these species over the course of the 22-year raptor monitoring program precludes statistical and trend analysis, the presence data nevertheless provide valuable information on the diversity and location of breeding raptors at Pinnacles. This has been used for planning purposes relating to the revision of the General Management Plan (GMP), and for guiding timing of routine maintenance activities.

Study Area and Field Methods

Pinnacles is located in the Gabilan Mountains of the central Coast Range of California and encompasses 10,694 hectares with elevation ranging from 244 to 982 meters. The climate is Mediterranean with hot, dry summers and cool, damp winters. Temperatures range from a mean of 8.2° C in January to 22.6° C in July. The majority of the rainfall occurs from November to April with average yearly rainfall of 44 cm (NOAA 1997).

Pinnacles provides a diverse range of habitat types for birds and other species. These habitats include: volcanic rock formations and outcroppings, California mixed chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, grasslands, and riparian habitats.

Sample Design

The prairie falcon monitoring focuses on core areas and non-core areas. Core areas (Figure 1) are locations in Pinnacles that can support prairie falcon cliff-nesting, and where impacts to raptors due to rock climbing activities can occur based on historic rock-climbing use and access. Core area sampling is conducted through a census, because the area is sufficiently small to allow for complete coverage.

Non-core areas refer to all other areas within the monument that can support prairie falcon cliff-nesting. For 2003-2008, non-core area sampling has also been conducted through a census. This has been possible because of comprehensive historical data on prairie falcon nest sites gathered over the past 22 years. In addition, GIS modeling completed in 2008 confirmed that all potential prairie falcon nesting areas in the monument have been surveyed during the past 5 years.

Field Methods

Survey methods followed the standard operating procedures detailed in the 2008 Raptor Monitoring Protocol for Pinnacles National Monument, California (Emmons et al. 2009). While the protocol focuses on monitoring population and productivity trends of prairie falcons, the park is also interested in presence and productivity data for 14 other cliff- and riparian-nesting raptor species. Many of these species are considered “species at risk” but do not currently have official federal or state protection status (CDFG 2008).

Cliff-nesting Raptors

Besides prairie falcons, peregrine falcons are the other obligate cliff-nesting “species at risk” at Pinnacles. Potential and established cliff-nesting raptor territories in core and non-core areas were surveyed using spotting scopes (20-60x) and binoculars (10x42). Observations were made from the locations that provided the best view of an eyrie or a territory. A Magellan Triton 500 GPS unit was used to plot every observation point. Field data were documented with standardized datasheets and field notebooks (Appendix 4).

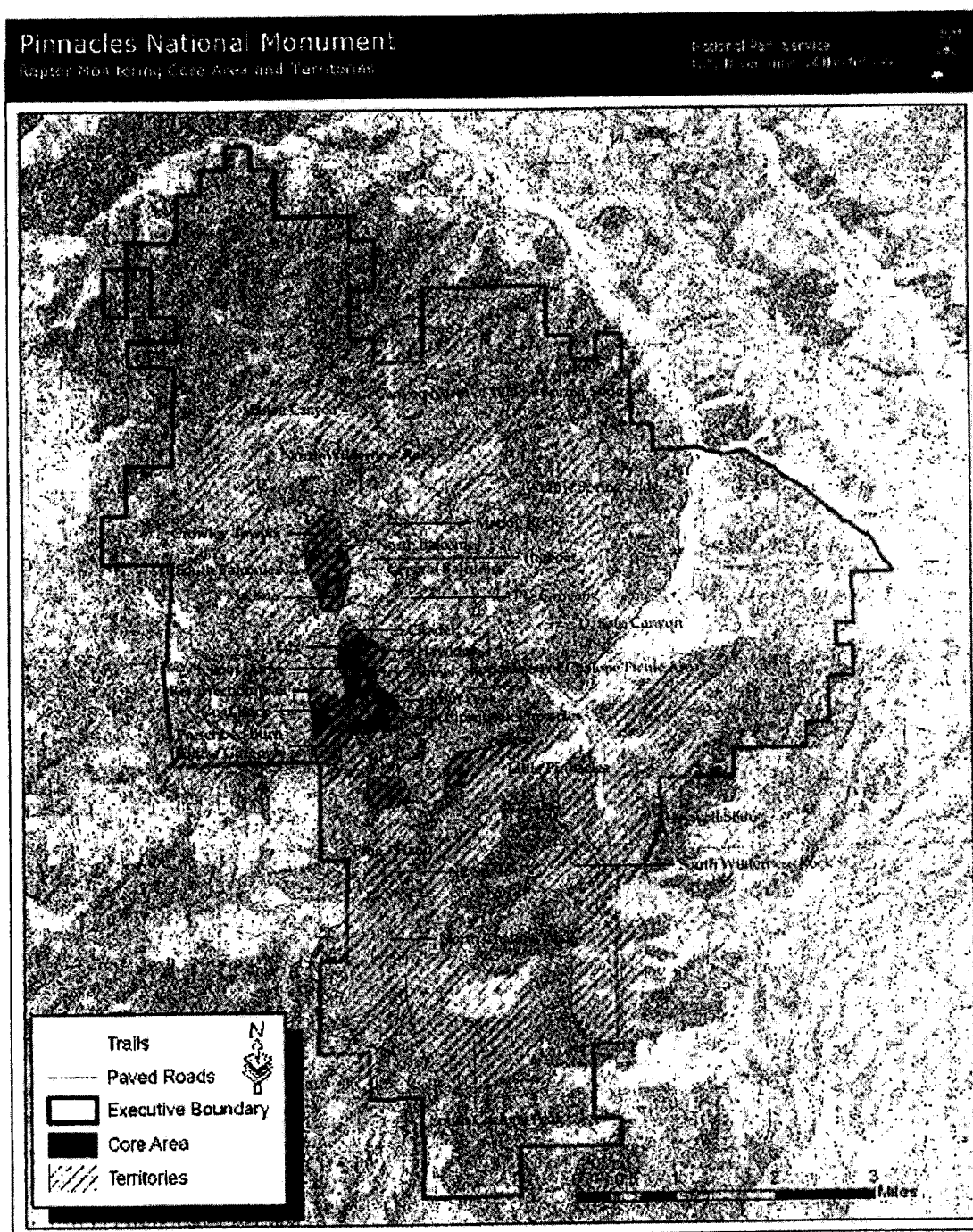


Figure 1. Core and non-core areas at Pinnacles National Monument.

Three- to five-hour observation periods are commonly recommended to document territory occupancy of peregrine falcons and prairie falcons (USFWS 1984; Cade et al. 1996; Smith et al. 2006). Steenhof et al. (1999) employed 2-hour observation periods during point surveys to document territory occupancy of prairie falcons in the Snake River region of Idaho. For a potential prairie falcon territory to be classified as unoccupied at Pinnacles, we adopted a conservative standard of visiting potential nest sites at least three times per breeding season spaced 21-28 days apart to confirm territorial occupancy, courtship, and incubation of eggs within a breeding season (Fuller et al. 1981; Fraser et al. 1983; Steenhof 1987). Survey duration was ultimately dependent upon visibility but at least three 4-hour surveys (12 hours total) were required to verify that “no birds” were present. Nests determined to be active were revisited to confirm rearing of nestlings and fledging of young. Nests in core areas were monitored more frequently and during weekend days when climbers were more likely to be present. While other monitoring programs infer fledging success at 90% fledge age (Steenhof and Kochert 1982; Anderson and Squires 1997; Steenhof 1998), our protocol was to continue surveys until all young raptors were confirmed as fledged.

During the prairie falcon breeding season status was asserted as follows:

Territories: Territorial behavior included perching, flying, territorial disputes and defense, stooping and scold calling, and roosting locations.

Courtship: Courtship behavior included copulation, food drops and swapping, and potential nest site inspections and preparation.

Incubation: Incubation status was determined by observing prairie falcons flying into a nest hole and not re-emerging for extended periods of time. During this time, egg counts were made whenever possible (e.g. when lighting conditions allowed and when incubating falcons temporarily left the nest during food drops and/or nest switches). Soft incubation – the onset of incubation – was determined by a small number of eggs laid and the female incubating for short durations (15-75 minutes of incubation and 20 minutes or more not incubating the eggs). Hard incubation was characterized by the adult falcons – primarily the females – incubating a full clutch of eggs for hours in duration.

Hatchlings: Hatched young prairie falcons were aged by physical features using an aging guide (Moritsch 1983). Hatch dates were determined by counting backwards from at least two (preferably three or more) independent agings.

Fledging: Fledging was confirmed by seeing young perched and/or in flight away from the nest site. Fledging dates were estimated by the coordination and strength of flight, the size of perches, and the amount of vocalization during flight.

Riparian-nesting Raptors

Riparian-nesting raptor activity was documented en route to observation points for cliff-nesting raptor monitoring. Additionally, historical riparian raptor nest sites were

monitored for raptor presence, and Pinnacles staff/visitor observations of breeding raptor activity were checked for confirmation of raptor presence.

Potential and established riparian-nesting raptor territories were surveyed using spotting scopes (20-60x) and binoculars (10x42). Observations were made from locations where breeding raptor activity was documented and raptor nest sites were most visible. A Magellan Triton 500 GPS unit was used to plot observation points.

For each riparian-nesting raptor species all historical nest sites and potential nest habitats were visited at least 2 times per breeding season spaced 21-28 days apart. Visits were scheduled to correspond with general phenology patterns for egg incubation and nesting per species to allow for the highest possibility of confirming territorial occupancy and active nesting of raptor species. Active nest sites were revisited every 28 days to document rearing of nestlings and fledging of young.

Monitoring Schedule

The monitoring season started on 13 January and continued through the end of the nesting season, 11 July (Table 1).

Table 1. Timing of netting behavior of prairie falcons at Pinnacles National Monument.

Behavior	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Territorial							
Falcons							
Courtship							
Behavior							
Nesting							
Fledging							

Weather was always an important factor. During temperature extremes, heavy fog, or rain, most birds of prey were not active and therefore monitoring was not done during these periods.

Data Management

Data are entered into a MS Access database. Original data sheets are archived with Pinnacles Resource Management. Nest data are also submitted to the CDFG California National Diversity Database, and the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group.



Figure 2. Setting up advisory sign. ©Gavin Emmons, 2006.

Climbing Advisories

Climbing advisories went into effect by mid-January. Informational signs were established near territories occupied by prairie falcons at least once during the preceding three years. Visitors were advised to avoid these areas but compliance was voluntary. Advisory areas with posted signs (Figure 2) included the Balconies, Hawkins, Scout Peak, Frog/Hand, and Little Pinnacles territories.

Results and Discussion

During the 2008 field season, Pinnacles staff spent 765 hours in the field to make raptor observations. Volunteers contributed 60 hours of time in the field to make observations. Observers documented 11 territorial raptor species at Pinnacles. Of these, nine species were documented as breeding at Pinnacles (Table 2) including seven species of concern tracked by the California Natural Diversity Database (CDFG 2008). For all breeding raptor species, nine previously undocumented nest sites were confirmed, representing half of all nest sites recorded in the 2008 breeding season.

Table 2. 2008 Pinnacles breeding raptor nesting productivity.

Species	Territorial Pairs	Nesting Pairs	Successful Nests	# Fledglings	# Fledglings / Nest
Prairie Falcon *	12	5	4	12	3
Peregrine Falcon *	1	1	1	3	3
Golden Eagle *	3	2	1	2	2
Red-tailed Hawk	11	2	1	1	1
American Kestrel	7	2	2	4	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	2	2	4	2
Cooper's Hawk *	8	2	2	8	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk *	3	1	1	3	3
White-tailed Kite *	1	0	0	0	0
Long-eared Owl *	2	2	1	2	2
Great-horned Owl	2	0	0	0	0

* Species of Concern tracked by California Natural Diversity Database.

Prairie Falcons

Occupied Territories

Through the 2008 season 12 territorial pairs of prairie falcons were confirmed over the course of the breeding season (Table 3). This is comparable to the average territorial occupancy of 11.6 territories from 1984-2008. Of these, seven pairs did not nest or produce young this year. The Pipsqueak Pinnacles/Scout Peak pair actively perched, courted, and defended both territories early in the breeding season, but abandoned both

areas by the middle of March. The other six non-nesting pairs – at Machete/Citadel, Crowley Towers, Egg/Teapot Dome/Tunnel, NE Sec 15/North Chalone Peak, South Chalone Peak, and Willow Spring Slide/Canyon North of Willow Spring – occupied respective territories throughout the breeding season, engaged in courtship displays and potential nest site inspections, but did not lay, incubate, or hatch eggs.

Core Area: In 2008 there were seven territories within the core area. This is similar to the number of territories occupied in the core area over the last four years.

Table 3. 1984-2008 Pinnacles prairie falcon nesting productivity – core and non-core areas combined.

Year	Territorial Pairs	Nesting Pairs	Successful Nests	# Fledglings	# Fledglings / Nest
1984	9	8	8	27	3.4
1987	6	4	4	10	2.5
1988	12	9	8	24	3
1989	11	10	8	19	2.4
1990	14	11	10	35	3.5
1991	14	11	10	32	3.2
1992	13	11	10	34	3.4
1993	13	12	10	35	3.5
1994	13	12	12	42	3.5
1995	13	11	8	24	3
1996	10	10	9	34	3.8
1997	12	8	6	26	4.3
1998	10	7	0	0	0
1999	10	8	6	27	4.5
2000	8	8	7	22	3.1
2001	10	9	7	24	3.4
2002	11	8	7	22	3.1
2003	12	9	8	32	4
2004	12	11	9	33	3.7
2005	13	10	9	27	3
2006	15	14	10	30	3
2007	14	12	9	33	3.7
2008	12	5	4	12	3
Averages (1984-2007)	11.6	9.5	7.7	26.2	3.2

Table 4. 2008 Pinnacles prairie falcon breeding summary.

Territory	Nest Used/ Last Year Used	# Eggs Laid	# Young Hatched	# Young Known/ Fledged
Drywall	DRY-2/2007	Unknown	4	4/ 4
Little Pinnacles*	LP-10/NEW	Unknown	2	2/ 2
Pig Canyon	PIG-9/NEW	Unknown	4	4/ 4
Resurrection Wall*	RW-6/NEW	Unknown	0	0 Note: Nest failed due to abandonment.
South Balconies*	SGB-16/NEW	4	2	2/ 2

* nests within the core area.

Table 5. 1984-2008 Pinnacles prairie falcon nesting productivity – core areas only.

Year	Territorial Pairs	Nesting Pairs	Successful Nests	# Fledglings	# Fledglings / Nest
1984	7	6	6	20	3.3
1987	5	4	4	10	2.5
1988	8	6	5	18	3.6
1989	8	7	6	16	2.7
1990	9	7	6	25	4.2
1991	9	8	8	31	3.9
1992	9	7	7	27	3.9
1993	10	10	9	30	3.3
1994	11	10	10	35	3.5
1995	10	9	7	21	3.0
1996	9	7	6	24	4.0
1997	8	6	4	17	4.3
1998	7	5	0	0	0
1999	6	6	4	13	3.3
2000	5	5	4	15	3.8
2001	7	6	5	12	2.4
2002	5	5	4	12	3.0
2003	5	5	5	22	4.4
2004	7	7	5	18	3.6
2005	5	4	4	11	2.8
2006	7	6	5	15	3.0
2007	6	6	6	26	4.3
2008	7	3	2	4	2
Averages (1984-2007)	7.4	6.3	5.3	18.3	3.2

Annual Productivity

Only five of the 12 pairs nested. Twelve nestlings fledged from the four successful nests (Tables 3, 4). The number of fledglings was lower only in 1987 and 1998 (Table 3,

Figures 3, 4). Low numbers documented in 1987 may have been partly due to limited staff available for monitoring during the breeding season. The 1998 season was characterized by heavy precipitation and major flooding throughout the raptor breeding season which contributed to nest failures for the entire breeding population of prairie falcons (Imberski 1998). Neither of these conditions was present in 2008: rainfall was below normal and monitoring efforts were on par with historical levels.

From the 4 successful nest sites, 12 total possible fledglings were produced. Nesting falcon pairs and nest productivity within core areas were likewise below the 22-year average this season. Two successful nest sites produced 4 total fledglings and 2 fledglings per nest, compared to the 22-year averages of 5.3 successful nests, 18.3 total fledglings, and 3.2 fledglings per nest (Table 5).

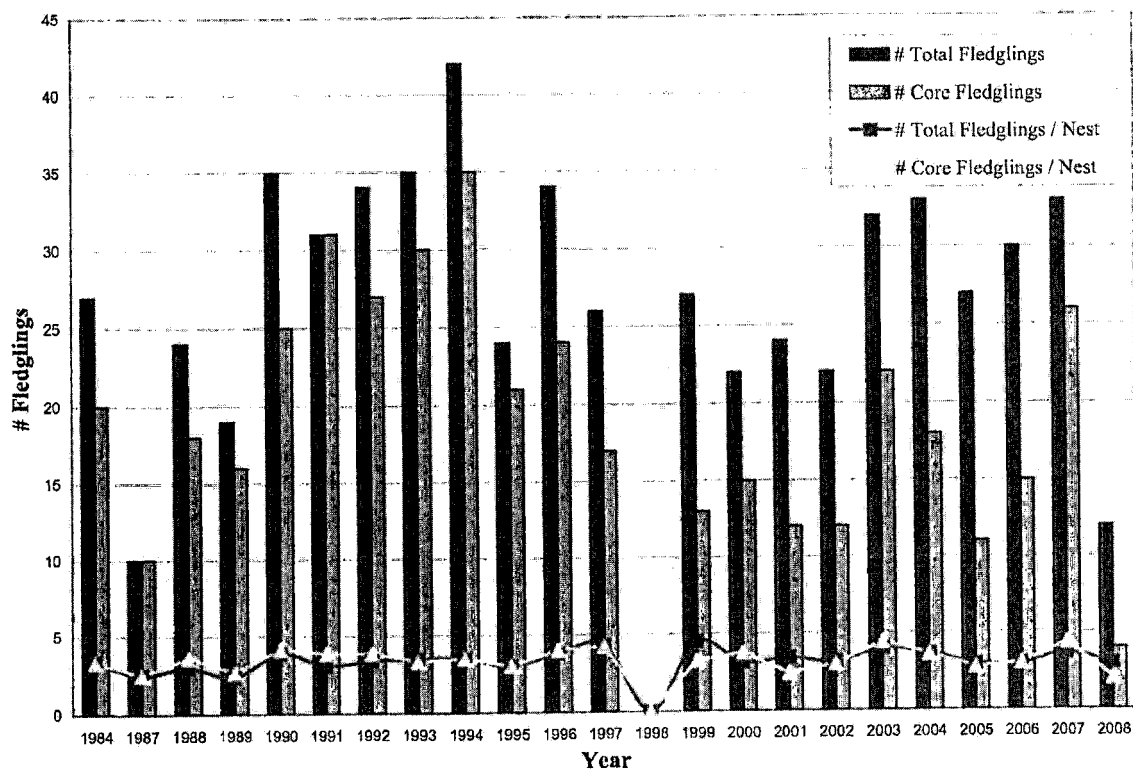


Figure 3. Total vs. Core Pinnacles PRFA Fledgling Productivity, 1984-2008.

Core Area: Of the seven territories in the core area in 2008, only two nested successfully, producing an average of two fledglings per nest (Table 5). This is below the 1984-2008 average of 3.2 fledglings per nest. These numbers represented the 2nd lowest rates for core area nests on record.

Phenology

The first prairie falcon pairs were observed at Crowley Towers, South Balconies, and Machete Ridge on 17 January 2008 (Appendix 1). Incubation was first observed at Pig Canyon on 14 April. The first hatching occurred between 8-9 May at Little Pinnacles. The first fledging took place from 19-20 June, also at Little Pinnacles. The last fledging took place at South Balconies on 2 July when two young fledged prematurely, likely due to disturbance at the nest site, but were still seen flying in the territory a week later.



Figure 4. Prairie Falcon fledgling at South Balconies. ©Gavin Emmons, 2006.

Other Notes

One of the five eyries chosen by prairie falcons was used in previous years. The other eyries were within historical territories, but the nest sites were previously undocumented. Two territories occupied by prairie falcon pairs for at least the past five years – D. Soto Canyon and Narrows/Marion Canyon – were vacant this year.

Other Species

Throughout the season data were collected on other raptor species nesting at Pinnacles. Notes are presented below. See Appendices 2-3 for further phenology and breeding data.

Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus)

A peregrine falcon (Figure 5) pair occupied and successfully nested in the Hawkins territory, marking the 4th consecutive year in the past 50 years that a peregrine pair nested and produced fledglings in the monument. The pair was first observed circling near the central High Peaks on 13 January 2008, and chasing a prairie falcon female out of the Hawkins territory on 28 January. The pair was previously observed October through December 2007, suggesting the falcons were resident at the monument through the winter season. Through mid-March, the peregrine falcon pair copulated often, inspected historical nest sites at Hawkins regularly, and actively stooped other raptors in the Hawkins territory. The peregrine falcon pair laid and hatched three eggs, and fledged all three young by late June.



Figure 5. Juvenile Peregrine Falcon. ©Gavin Emmons, 2005.

Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)

Golden eagles were observed nesting on the west side of North Chalone Peak in Pinnacles and at the Eucalyptus Grove outside of the west entrance of Pinnacles. Golden eagle adults and juveniles were active throughout the monument, and although a golden eagle pair occupied the Drywall territory, no breeding activity was confirmed. Historical nest sites in three territories – Frog Canyon, South Chalone Peak, and Eagle Rock – contain five former nest sites observed in mid-winter through late spring, with no new greenery added to any of the nests.

Golden eagle nesting was confirmed at North Chalone and the Eucalyptus Grove. The nest site at the Eucalyptus Grove was used the past four years by a nesting eagle pair. The North Chalone nest was documented as an active golden eagle nest in 2007. The golden eagle pairs were first observed at the Eucalyptus Grove on 20 January 2008 and at North Chalone on 17 February. Two eaglets hatched at the Eucalyptus Grove nest. The North Chalone nest produced one egg but failed due to abandonment by the adults. The North Chalone pair appeared to be rebuilding a nest construct in late April but did not nest again. Full fledging at the Eucalyptus Grove nest was highly likely but only one eaglet was confirmed fledged.

Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis)

Although 11 red-tailed hawk (Figure 6) pairs occupied territories at Pinnacles this year, only two nesting pairs were confirmed. Nine historical nest sites at the Western Front, Hand/Prescribed Burn Cliffs, South Wilderness (North End)/Grassy Canyon, Eagle Rock, Crowley Drainage/North Balconies, Guard Rock, and Kingman Land North were not used this year despite territorial occupation by red-tailed hawk pairs in all of these areas. The two active red-tailed hawk nests were stick nests at Lower Condor Gulch and Kingman Land North, both used by breeding pairs in 2007. Each nest produced one nestling, but the Kingman Land North nest failed likely due to predation or the nestling falling out of the nest site. The nestling at the Lower Condor Gulch nest fledged prematurely and actively took short flights near the nest site.



Figure 6. Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk. ©Gavin Emmons, 2005.

American Kestrel (Falco sparverius)

Seven territorial pairs and two breeding records were confirmed this year. Breeding pairs were observed at Kingman Land North and Prescribed Burn Cliffs. The Prescribed Burn Cliffs kestrel pair nested in a cliff cavity last used in 2001. Nest incubation and hatching dates were not confirmed at either site. Two fledglings were confirmed from each breeding pair, with two males at Prescribed Burn Cliffs and a male and female at Kingman Land North. The young kestrels at Kingman Land North were observed soon after fledging, with a likely but unconfirmed live oak tree cavity nest located in the vicinity of the fledglings. Other kestrel pairs for which nesting was not confirmed occupied the following territories: D. Soto Canyon, Discovery Wall, Drywall, Eucalyptus Grove, Mating Rocks, Resurrection Wall, South Balconies, South Chalone Peak, and Teapot Dome.

Red-shouldered Hawk (Buteo lineatus)

Five territorial red-shouldered hawk pairs were documented in the monument this year, in the following territories: Bench Area, Pinnacles Campground, McCabe Canyon, Regan Ranch Canyon, and Kingman Land South. (Although Regan Ranch Canyon is a private

inholding, it is surrounded by NPS property on three sides and is within the congressionally designated boundary of the monument). Only two red-shouldered hawk pairs nested successfully this year. The Pinnacles Campground nest was last used in 2006, and the Bench Area nest was previously undocumented. Both nest constructs were built along riparian corridors, with the Pinnacles Campground nest built on a valley oak and the Bench Area nest on a gray pine. Red-shouldered hawk pairs at Kingman Land South and McCabe Canyon added fresh material to historical nest sites used in 2007, but neither pair laid or incubated eggs. The first territorial red-shouldered hawk pair was observed at the Pinnacles Campground on 29 January 2008. Both confirmed red-shouldered hawk nests hatched two young each. Full fledge was confirmed at both nests.

Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii)

Two active nests were confirmed for Cooper's hawks (Figure 7) at Pinnacles in 2008. Both stick nest constructs were built on gray pines along riparian corridors in the Marion Canyon and Kingman Land North territories. The Marion Canyon nest was last used in 2007, and the Kingman Land North nest was previously undocumented. Both of the Cooper's hawk nests hatched four nestlings each. Full fledge was confirmed at the Kingman Land North nest. Three of four young were confirmed fledged at the Marion Canyon nest, though full fledge was highly likely given the remaining nestling's advanced development.

Non-nesting Cooper's hawk pairs were confirmed occupying six additional territories: Drywall/Grassy Canyon, Fire Wayside, Guard Rock, Kingman Land South, Peaks View Area, and Pinnacles Campground. Fourteen historical nest sites in 12 territories were not active this year.



Figure 7. Cooper's hawk nestling in Marion Canyon nest. ©Gavin Emmons, 2008.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (Accipiter striatus)

One sharp-shinned hawk (Figure 8) nest was confirmed at Pinnacles in 2008. The nesting pair was first documented incubating eggs in the Peaks View Area territory west across Chalone Creek from the parking area on 18 May 2008. Three nestlings were observed at the nest site, and full fledging was confirmed by mid-July. The nest, located on a live oak, was a stick construct conspicuously covered in feather down and whitewash. The nest site was well-concealed in a small but relatively dense, wooded grove at the base of a shallow canyon next to Chalone Creek. Sharp-shinned hawk pairs were also observed occupying the Frog Canyon and Upper Bear Gulch territories, but active nesting was not confirmed. Sharp-shinned hawks were also active near the North Wilderness Trail junction along Old Pinnacles Trail, in Lower Bear Gulch, in Lower Condor Gulch, near Willow Spring, along the South Wilderness Trail, and in the Pinnacles Campground.



Figure 8. Juvenile sharp-shinned hawk. ©Gavin Emmons, 2003.

Long-eared Owl (Asio otus)

There were two nesting records for long-eared owls (Figure 9) at Pinnacles this season at the Kingman Land North and Regan Ranch Canyon territories. Both nests were previously undocumented stick nests on live oaks in wooded groves, representing only the 5th and 6th long-eared owl nests confirmed during the raptor monitoring program. By appearance

and construction, the stick nests appeared to be a Cooper's hawk construct (for the Kingman Land North site) and a red-shouldered hawk construct (for the Regan Ranch Canyon site). The long-eared owl pair in Regan Ranch Canyon successfully produced two nestlings, but the Kingman Land North nest was abandoned after early season incubation efforts. Territorial occupation by an adult long-eared owl pair was first confirmed at the Kingman Land North territory on 2 May 2008, with an adult observed sitting low on a stick nest in a live oak and very likely incubating eggs. However, the nest failed due to abandonment. Two nestlings were confirmed at the Regan Ranch Canyon nest. Fledging for both owlets was unconfirmed but possible and projected for late May.



Figure 9. Long-eared owl adult near Chalone housing area. ©Gavin Emmons, 2006.

White-tailed Kite (Elanus leucurus)

One territorial white-tailed kites pair was observed in mid-May briefly occupying the Kingman Land South area. Five other historical kite territories – Double Gates, Jawbone Canyon, Marion Canyon, McCabe Canyon, and South Wilderness (North End) – were unoccupied this year, and no other white-tailed kites were documented occupying territories at Pinnacles.

Barn Owl (Tyto alba)

Territorial barn owl pairs were not documented at Pinnacles in 2008, in contrast to territorial and nesting barn owl pairs confirmed at D. Soto Canyon and Drywall in 2005-2007.

Great-horned Owl (Bubo virginianus)

Great horned owl pairs were documented occupying territories in Lower Condor Gulch and Crowley Drainage, but no nests were confirmed for the species in 2008. A single great horned owl was also observed occupying the blue oak slopes between the Bear Gulch Nature Center and Frog Canyon. Great horned owl vocalizations were not documented in historical nesting and territorial locations including Hanging Valley/Reservoir, Machete, Upper Condor Gulch, Pinnacles Campground or South Wilderness (North End).

Western Screech Owls (Megascops kennicottii)

Screech owls were seen and heard hooting, particularly near the Bear Gulch Visitor Center and in the Chalone housing area, beginning in January. They were also heard hooting regularly in the Pinnacles Campground.

Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)

An osprey was observed soaring over the High Peaks in late March.

Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)

Bald eagles were observed in and near the monument through late spring, with immature and sub-adult eagles observed feeding sporadically at the Grassy Canyon condor feeding site through spring.

Northern Harriers (Circus cyaneus)

A pair of northern harriers was observed in the Kingman Land North area at the base of the Regan Ranch Canyon and just north in late winter and early spring, but was not confirmed nesting in the monument. Harriers were also occasionally observed hunting near the monument boundaries through late spring.

Climbing Management Actions

Climbing advisories were put in place in January in areas with known climber usage to protect nesting raptors from disturbance. In March and April advisories were updated and lifted in territories that were confirmed unoccupied by prairie and peregrine falcon pairs. Signs detailing climbing advisories were posted at Little Pinnacles, Balconies, Hawkins, Scout Peak, Frog/Hand territories, Crowley Towers, Egg, Tunnel, Teapot Dome, Pipsqueak Pinnacles, and Goat Rock/Resurrection Wall territories.

Prairie falcons were confirmed occupying the Machete territory in March and April, though they did not nest in 2008. Due to the large size of Machete Ridge, a partial advisory was instituted at this territory, covering the south half of the cliffs where the falcon pair focused their territorial efforts and potential nest site inspections.

This year vandals moved the Frog/Hand and the Hawkins advisory signs. As a result, all signs were affixed to metal brackets and cement foundations to prevent any future theft.

In 2008, nine incidents of off-trail hikers in advisory areas were documented. In two cases climbers did not know about advisories and in one case, climbers had received inaccurate information from park staff.

Prairie and peregrine falcon adults in the Goat/Resurrection, Crowley, Hawkins, Machete, and Balconies territories were agitated by on-trail hikers and raptor biologists by circling and wailing above their respective territories.

Education Opportunities

Throughout the year, the raptor biologist and park staff participated in public outreach opportunities to inform visitors about raptor conservation. Educational opportunities included participation in formal events (e.g. International Migratory Bird Day – May 10; Rockpile Rendezvous 7 June) and informal events (e.g. visitor contact in high-use areas such as High Peaks, Balconies Cliff Trail, and the Bear Gulch Reservoir).

Summary

The nine breeding raptor species and 18 nest sites documented at Pinnacles in 2008 were fewer than recorded in the past five years. The number of prairie falcon nests and productivity this year were among the lowest on record and were below the running average rates of nesting pairs, successful nests, and total fledglings produced. Only five falcon pairs attempted to nest this year, and only four nests were successful, compared to 22-year averages of 9.5 nesting pairs and 7.7 successful nests (Table 4).

Public Interest Highlights

The 2008 breeding season was the 22nd year of raptor monitoring at Pinnacles. Field observations began 13 January 2008 and ended 11 July 2008, with a total of over 120 possible and active nest sites monitored during 825 observation hours. Climbing advisories were put into effect in January to reduce nest disturbance by visitors, updated to reflect unoccupied territories in March, and lifted in July at the end of the raptor breeding season.

- Nine breeding raptor species and 18 nests were confirmed in the monument.
- Six sensitive species were confirmed breeding this year: prairie falcon, peregrine falcon, golden eagle, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, and long-eared owl.
- For the 4th consecutive year in 50 years, a peregrine falcon pair was documented successfully nesting at the monument, producing 3 fledglings.
- Accipiter species were confirmed nesting in the monument, with only the 7th sharp-shinned hawk nest documented.
- Two long-eared owl nests represented the 5th and 6th nests documented for the species in the monument since 1964.
- Twenty breeding records for raptor species at Pinnacles were reported to the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group and the California Natural Diversity Database (through the California Department of Fish and Game).
- An ArcMap project was updated to visually display GPS and GIS information relating to the raptor monitoring program, including historical nest sites,

monitoring watch spots, nest distribution by geologic and habitat layers, and locations of advisory signs posted at Pinnacles.

- GIS modeling based on 30-40° slopes was performed to identify all possible prairie falcon cliff-nesting sites at Pinnacles, and to provide evidence for full censusing of prairie falcon nesting habitat at the monument.
- All raptor advisory signs were affixed to metal brackets in cement foundations with the assistance of Pinnacles trail crew staff to make the signs more secure and to prevent their theft and movement.
- The Rockpile Rendezvous – a centennial event to emphasize climber contributions, history, and management at Pinnacles over the past 60 years – was organized by the raptor biologist and other monument staff, drawing in the local climbing community and providing visitors with information on historical resource and recreation management at the monument.
- A 4-piece photographic article on Pinnacles was published in Nature Photographer Magazine, including the Summer issue focusing on raptor monitoring and condor management at the monument. The raptor biologist also provided photography for a wildlife piece in the California, Oregon, and Mountain West editions of Via Magazine, emphasizing California condor presence and management at Pinnacles.
- A PowerPoint presentation on the raptor monitoring program, its objectives, and trend results over the past 21 years was given by the raptor biologist and the supervisory Pinnacles wildlife biologist during the 5-Year Review of the SFAN Inventory and Monitoring Program at Fort Cronkhite.
- The revised 2008 Raptor Monitoring Protocol was completed in June and sent in for peer review, with updates including a more cohesive Narrative, more focused objectives, and statistical and trend analyses performed by San Francisco State University statisticians.

Management Recommendations

- Continue to establish climbing/hiking advisories in core areas (high visitor-use areas) each breeding season to protect cliff-nesting raptor species from human disturbance.
- Increase information opportunities for visitor use assistants and park rangers to educate park visitors about advisories. In past years, the park made more attempts than this year to speak with climbers and hikers at trailheads, and to regularly rove on trails to provide interpretation and enforcement of resources.

- Enforce advisories with law enforcement rangers. Although advisories are voluntary, disturbing wildlife is a citable offense that law enforcement rangers should employ to discourage visitors from willfully threatening nesting efforts of breeding raptors at Pinnacles.
- Increase field staff. While the monitoring program focuses on the status and trends of prairie falcons, the park is interested in additional data on non-target species. In order to monitor non-target species adequately, at least 1 other 0.5 FTE field technician is needed during the breeding season.
- Increase use of staff and visitors observing raptor activity in the field. This can be achieved through regular communication with NPS staff and visitors, bi-weekly monitoring updates on raptor status at the monument, and reminders about filling out wildlife observation cards.
- Provide housing to field technicians. The closest housing available to the park staff is 40-50 minutes away. To fulfill the current duties the raptor biologist works very early and late hours throughout the raptor breeding season with long breaks during the day. In addition the raptor biologist works around inclement weather and raptor behavior. Safety and effective monitoring would be enhanced if an exception can be made from the usual policy of permanent employees living outside the monument for field staff.

Research and Monitoring Recommendations

Historically, the raptor monitoring program has focused on managing for the protection of cliff-nesting raptors, particularly prairie falcons and golden eagles, because they are species of concern in California and are directly impacted by climbing advisories in the monument. The standardization of raptor monitoring procedures and raptor advisories, and effective communication with hikers and climbers at the monument, has helped to ensure the continuing breeding success of prairie falcons and golden eagles, and the return of breeding peregrine falcons to the monument. However, four sensitive species of concern in California – Cooper’s hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, white-tailed kites, and long-eared owls – have received little monitoring attention historically, despite the confirmation of active nesting for all of these species. These four raptor species tend to reproduce along riparian corridors where many of the trails are located and potential disturbance of nest sites by visitors should be studied further. Fletcher (2003) conducted graduate-level fieldwork on accipiter nest site selection and recreational trail use at Pinnacles in 1999-2001, documented 20 nests and two nest failures along trails in the monument, and recommended further studies to determine the effects of visitor disturbance on accipiter breeding in the monument.

As the staff at Pinnacles continue to transition into managing the Pinnacles Ranch and former Kingman property extending out to Highway 25, the need for further monitoring

of forest and woodland nesting raptors becomes even more important. Much of this new monument property contains riparian corridors and oak/pine woodlands suitable for accipiter, kite, and long-eared owl nesting habitat. Recommendations for monitoring of riparian-nesting raptor species include:

- Inventory nest sites for species of concern in riparian habitats in the monument.
- Determine what percentage of riparian raptor nests occur along trails and in high-use visitor areas relative to low-use areas, and how breeding behavior and productivity rates compare in high- and low-use areas.
- Recommend that new trails, buildings, and visitor use areas avoid documented nest sites and likely nest habitat for riparian raptor species, based on results from inventory and research data above.

Without this baseline information, it may be necessary for resource managers at Pinnacles to enforce seasonal closures of these new developments in order to protect these species from disturbance.

Other recommendations for monitoring and research:

- Conduct an inventory of burrowing owls on recently acquired Pinnacles Ranch property. This owl is also listed as a sensitive species of concern in many western states including California (Martell 1990; James 1992; Haug et al. 1993), with local populations in California – particularly near the San Francisco Bay and the Central Valley – declining steeply in recent years (Johnson 1992). The first record for burrowing owls in the monument was documented in October 2006 on the western boundary near the Bear Gulch Headwaters. These owls may also inhabit the rangeland and fields between the Pinnacles Campground and Highway 25. Field work could be done by a biological science technician or by the extending the raptor biologist through September or October.
- Determine potential threats to prairie falcons nesting at Pinnacles. Radio telemetry studies conducted from 2002-2005 revealed important preliminary data about the prairie falcon population at Pinnacles: the population is resident in or near the monument throughout the year, and all radio-tracked falcons fed primarily on prey items just south and west of the monument boundaries, with no evidence of adult falcons feeding north or east of the monument (Buranek 2006). This information suggests that alteration of habitat south and west of the monument boundaries, especially near the town of Soledad, could have significant negative consequences for a viable, long-term population of prairie falcons at Pinnacles. In addition, the effects of pesticide (e.g. rodenticide) in the area are poorly understood.

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Appendix A. 2008 nest phenology and success for prairie & peregrine falcons and eagles.

Nest Species	Territory Occupied	Nest Code	Arrival Date	Begin Incub	Hatch Date	Fledge Date	Abandon Date	Failed Date	# of Eggs	# of Nestlings	Known Fledglings	Possible Fledglings	Occup. Status
PRFA Cyn N of Willow Spgs		*WSS	<2/2										Occupied
PRFA Citadel		*MAC	1/21-2/4										Occupied
PRFA Crowley			<1/17										Occupied
PRFA D. Soto Canyon				<4/17	5/8-10	6/19-21			4	4	4	4	Not Occ.
PRFA Drywall		DRY-2	1/30-2/26										4
PRFA Egg		*TD/TU	<1/20										Occupied
PRFA Frog / Hand				<4/21				4/22-5/11					Not Occ.
PRFA Goat / Resurrection		RW-6											Failed
PRFA Hanging Valley													Not Occ.
PRFA Hawks													Not Occ.
PRFA High Pks Trl W of CPA													Not Occ.
PRFA Little Pinnacles		LP-10	<1/19	<4/23	5/8-9	6/19-20			2	2	2	2	2
PRFA Machete		*CI	1/21-2/4										Occupied
PRFA Marion Canyon													Not Occ.
PRFA Mating Rocks													Not Occ.
PRFA Narrows													Not Occ.
PRFA NE Sec 15		*NC	2/9-3/7										Occupied
PRFA North Balconies		*SGB	<1/17										Occupied
PRFA North Chalone		*NES	2/9-3/7										Occupied
PRFA North Wilderness Rock													Occupied
PRFA Pig Canyon		PIG-9	<1/26	<4/14	5/15-19	6/26-30	2/16-28		4	4	4	4	Not Occ.
PRFA Pipsqueak Pinnacles		*SP	1/22-2/5										Abandon
PRFA Prescribed Burn Cliffs													Not Occ.
PRFA Scout Peak		*PP	<1/24										Abandon
PRFA South Balconies		SGB-16	<1/17	<5/12	5/26-28	7/2	2/16-28		4	2	2	2	2
PRFA South Chalone			<5/4										Occupied
PRFA South Wilderness Rock													Not Occ.
PRFA Teapot Dome		*EGG/TU	<1/20										Occupied
PRFA Tugboat													Not Occ.
PRFA Tunnel		*EGG/TD	<1/20										Occupied
PRFA Willow Spring Slide		*CNWS	<2/2										Not Occ.
PRFA Hawkins		HP-1	1/16-28	<4/14	5/7-10	6/18-21			3	3	3	3	3
GOEA Eucalyptus Grove		EG-3	<1/20	<2/17	4/8-13	6/10-15			2	1	1	2	2
GOEA North Chalone West		NCW-1	<2/17	<3/17					1	0	0	0	Failed

(Note: for the "Occup. Status" column, # refers to possible fledglings, "Occupied" = territorial occupation, "Not Occ." = no occupation, "Failed" = failed nest, "Abandon" = territory abandoned after confirmed occupancy, "Unknown" = breeding confirmed (see nest code) or likely, but nest status unknown. For the "Nest Code" column, * refers to territorial links for raptor pairs occupying more than 1 territory.)

Appendix B. 2008 nest phenology and success for American kestrels and buteos.

Nest Species	Territory Occupied	Nest Code	Arrival Date	Begin Incub	Hatch Date	Fledge Date	Abandon Date	Failed Date	# of Eggs	# of Nestlings	Known Fledglings	Possible Fledglings	Occup. Status
AMKE	D. Soto Canyon												Not Occ.
AMKE	Discovery Wall												Not Occ.
AMKE	Drywall												Not Occ.
AMKE	Eucalyptus Grove		<4/24			6/4-6					2	2	Occupied
AMKE	Kingman Land North												2
AMKE	Mating Rocks												Not Occ.
AMKE	Prescribed Burn Cliffs	PB-4	<2/9			6/12-16				2	2	2	2
AMKE	Resurrection Wall		<2/28										Occupied
AMKE	South Balconies		<1/20										Occupied
AMKE	South Chalone		<5/4										Occupied
AMKE	Teapot Dome		<1/15										Occupied
RTHA	Crowley Drainage	*NB	<1/17										Occupied
RTHA	Eagle Rock		<3/15										Occupied
RTHA	Frog / Hand	*PB	<1/30										Occupied
RTHA	Grassy Canyon	*SWN	<1/29										Occupied
RTHA	Kingman Land North	KLN-4		<4/17	5/10-12			<5/17		1	0	0	Occupied
RTHA	Kingman Land North		<3/24										Failed
RTHA	Kingman Land North		<5/17										Occupied
RTHA	Lower Condor Gulch	LCG-1	<1/15	<4/14	5/11-16	6/20-21			1	1	1	1	Occupied
RTHA	North Balconies	*CD	<1/17										1
RTHA	Prescribed Burn Cliffs	*HAND	<1/30										Occupied
RTHA	S Wilderness - N End	*GC	<1/29										Occupied
RTHA	Upper Condor Gulch	*LOG	<1/15										Occupied
RTHA	Western Front		<2/5										Occupied
RSHA	Kingman Land South		<4/17										Occupied
RSHA	McCabe Canyon		<4/5										Occupied
RSHA	Pinnacles Campground	PCG-1	<1/29	<4/17	5/14-15	6/28-29			2	2	2	2	2
RSHA	Bench Trail	BA-3			5/4-6	6/18-20			2	2	2	2	2
RSHA	Regan Ranch Canyon		<5/2										Occupied
RSHA	South Wilderness Trail												Not Occ.

(Note: for the "Occup. Status" column, # refers to possible fledglings, "Occupied" = territorial occupation, "Not Occ." = no occupation, "Failed" = failed nest, "Unknown" = breeding confirmed (see nest code) or likely, but nest status unknown. For the "Nest Code" column, * refers to territorial links for raptor pairs occupying more than 1 territory.)

Appendix C. 2008 nest phenology and success – accipiters, kites, and owls (barn owls, long-eared owls, great-horned owls, and Western screech-owls).

Nest Species	Territory Occupied	Nest Code	Arrival Date	Begin Incub	Hatch Date	Fledge Date	Abandon Date	Failed Date	# of Eggs	# of Nestlings	Known Fledglings	Possible Fledglings	Occup. Status
COHA	Drywall		<1/29										Occupied
COHA	Fire Wayside		<3/11										Occupied
COHA	Kingman Land North	KLN-11	<3/20	<5/17	5/26-29	6/27-29				4	4	4	4
COHA	Kingman Land South		<5/31										Occupied
COHA	Marion Canyon	MAR-4		<5/8	5/26-30	6/27-30				4	3	4	4
COHA	Peaks View Area		<4/23										Occupied
COHA	Pinnacles Campground		<6/11										Occupied
SSHA	Frog Canyon		<5/18										Occupied
SSHA	Peaks View Area	PVA-1		<5/18	6/18-19	7/9-11				3	3	3	3
SSHA	Upper Bear Gulch		<6/20										Occupied
WTKI	Double Gates												Not Occ.
WTKI	Jawbone Canyon												Not Occ.
WTKI	Kingman Land North												Not Occ.
WTKI	Kingman Land South												Occupied
WTKI	Marion Canyon		<5/10										Not Occ.
WTKI	McCabe Canyon												Not Occ.
WTKI	S Wilderness – N End												Not Occ.
BNOW	D. Soto Canyon												Not Occ.
BNOW	Discovery Wall												Not Occ.
LEOW	Kingman Land North	KLN-8		<5/2									Failed
LEOW	Regan Ranch Canyon	RR-2			5/7-15	5/29-30			2	0	0	2	2
GHOW	Crowley Drainage		<1/17										Occupied
GHOW	Lower Condor Gulch		<4/3										Occupied
WESO	Chalone Picnic Area		<2/7										Occupied
WESO	Headquarters		<3/29										Occupied

(Note: for the "Occup. Status" column, # refers to possible fledglings, "Occupied" = territorial occupation, "Not Occ." = no occupation, "Failed" = failed nest, "Unknown" = breeding confirmed (see nest code) or likely, but nest status unknown. For the "Nest Code" column, # refers to territorial links for raptor pairs occupying more than 1 territory.)

Appendix D. Documentation of Changes in Data Collection Methods.

Through the course of the 2008 season, several changes were made to procedures for collecting field data and entering observations into raptor monitoring databases, and relevant sections in the Raptor Monitoring Protocol will be revised accordingly. Primarily these changes were put in place to address Inventory & Monitoring standards for data management and storage, the need for a standardized means of collecting raptor observations in the field, and the development of a more efficient workflow and structuring of existing MS Access databases.

Through the 2008 season raptor observations and breeding summaries were entered into the new “Breeding Raptors” Access raptor database, after development was finalized. This created a more efficient workflow in entering raptor observations and a more effective means of storing and archiving past years of monitoring data. SOP #8 in the Raptor Monitoring Protocol was also revised to reflect these changes and to address I&M standards for scientific rigor and data management. Additionally, Daniel George is finalizing the process for importing the 21-year legacy dataset into the current Access database design.

To provide a more standardized approach to data collection, a datasheet was created in late 2007 – an MS Word document called “Raptor Datasheet” – that was used throughout the 2008 season in tandem with field notebooks when recording raptor observations. The datasheet acts as a distillation of observations documented in field notebooks, and generally follows the data entry format contained within the “Breeding Raptors” Access database, creating a more efficient workflow for office data entry. The datasheet is electronically stored in the “important data files” folder (see below), and guidelines for using the datasheet have been added to the SOP #3 in the Raptor Monitoring Protocol, with relevant sections in other SOPs also updated.

A subfolder in the “database folder” titled “important data files” was created to provide a central location for some of the most important files not attached directly to theme folders in the Breeding Raptors folder. The folder contains a subfolder titled “PRFA Occupancy Data” that includes an Access database called “Fecundity,” as well as MS Excel spreadsheets detailing prairie falcon occupancy by territory, season, and day for the 2002-2008 seasons. The Access database details breeding summary data for prairie falcon pairs for each season over the 22-year period of the program. These data were compiled to provide for statistical analyses currently being finalized by staff at San Francisco State University. The “important data files” folder also contains a subfolder titled “CNDDDB” that stores electronic copies of the data sheets printed and mailed to the California Department of Fish and Game California Natural Diversity Database for the 2007 and 2008 seasons. The “RaptorPoster” Adobe Illustrator file is also contained in the “important data files” folder, and is an electronic copy of the printed poster that was presented at the ESA/SER Joint meeting in San Jose in 2007. Two Excel spreadsheets – “raptor summary data with graphs” and “Raptor Nests” – are also in this folder. The

Appendix D. Documentation of Changes in Data Collection Methods (Continued).

former spreadsheet contains a summary table of all statistical data related to prairie falcon breeding at Pinnacles over the 22-year monitoring program, as well as statistical data specifically for core nesting areas affected by climbing advisories and high visitor use. The latter spreadsheet is a summary of all active raptor nests listed by year, species, and nest codes.

The GIS layers and ArcMap project – “Raptor Nest Map” – pertaining to the raptor monitoring program are also stored in the “important data files” folder. GIS layers were updated to include GIS modeling of the monument created by Stephen Skartvedt, a GIS specialist at Golden Gate NRA, and to include current off-trail routes used to access raptor monitoring observation points at Pinnacles.

The 2008 Raptor Monitoring Protocol was finalized in June 2008 and sent to experts in the San Francisco Bay Area Network for peer review. The Protocol Narrative was updated to emphasize program objectives more clearly, citations on censusing and sampling frequency were clarified, and statistical and trend analyses from SFSU statisticians were used to justify monitoring frequency and number of visits to raptor territories to confirm occupancy.




Federal Register

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-SPECIES/2007/April/Day-06/e6447.htm>
Last updated on Friday, October 30th, 2009.

You are here: [EPA Home](#) » [Federal Register](#) » [FR Years](#) » [FR Months](#) » [FR Days](#) » [FR Documents](#) Draft Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan, Pinnacles National Monument, San Benito and Monterey Counties, CA; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan, Pinnacles National Monument, San Benito and Monterey Counties, CA; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

 Note: EPA no longer updates this information, but it may be useful as a reference or resource.

[Federal Register: April 6, 2007 (Volume 72, Number 66)]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/General Management Plan,
Pinnacles National Monument, San Benito and Monterey Counties, CA;
Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: In accord with section 102(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.), the National Park Service (NPS) has undertaken a conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process for updating the General Management Plan (GMP) for Pinnacles National Monument. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared concurrently with the GMP. The GMP will address desired conditions for the Monument, uses or treatment needs for resource protection, visitor use and other management goals thus serving as a ``blueprint'' to guide management of natural and cultural resources and visitor use during the next 15-20 years. This notice supersedes the previous notice published in the Federal Register on November 19, 1998 (Vol. 63, No. 223).

Background: Pinnacles National Monument preserves an ecologically-rich, geologically-spectacular, and culturally-significant landscape in the Central Coast region of California. Established in 1908 and named for dramatic rock formations that are the remains of an ancient volcano, the Monument preserves a landscape shaped by earthquake, fire, and flood. The Monument is rich in plant and animal life that inhabit the park's chaparral, oak woodland, talus cave, riparian, and rock-and-scrub habitats. In 2003, Pinnacles became the home once again to the California condor, one of the nation's most endangered species, elevating the Monument's profile substantially throughout the region.

Pinnacles preserves a rich human history with archeological sites reaching back at least 2,000 years, revealing use by indigenous people.

Sites from the 1800s reflect the homesteading history of the area. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps played the central role in the development of the Monument that visitors enjoy today, evidenced by roads, a visitor center, numerous park structures, and an outstanding trail system that stands as an important cultural resource in itself.

Located 100 miles south of the greater San Francisco Bay Area, Pinnacles is on the edge of one of the state's most populated and fastest-growing areas. Since 1976, Pinnacles has grown from 16,271 acres to 24,436 acres. In 1976, 15,985 acres were designated by Congress as Wilderness (and several tracts of land since transferred from the BLM bring the Wilderness total acreage to 16,048). Also, acquisition of the 2,000-acre Pinnacles Ranch during the spring of 2006 has added substantial new resources, infrastructure, recreational opportunities, and management challenges.

A new GMP reflecting contemporary issues and challenges facing Pinnacles in the future is essential. The plan will provide direction for park management through the establishment of management zones, user capacities and appropriate types and levels of development and recreational use for all areas of the park. Resource protection, visitor experiences, community relationships, and relationships with neighboring land management agencies will be improved through completion and implementation of the GMP.

Scoping Process: The purpose of the scoping outreach efforts is to elicit public comment regarding issues and concerns, the nature and extent of potential environmental impacts (and appropriate mitigation measures) that should be addressed in the plan. Major issues anticipated to be addressed in the EIS include:

- ? What are the desired conditions for native/endemic ecosystems?
- ? What are the desired conditions for Wilderness areas?
- ? What are the desired conditions for cultural resources and cultural landscapes?
- ? What areas and structures are appropriate for museum collections storage, preservation and accessibility for research?
- ? What is the desired visitor experience throughout the Monument (east side, west side, high peaks, Bear Gulch, Chalone, Chaparral, Pinnacles

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Ranch, campground, backcountry, Wilderness)?

- ? What are appropriate visitor use levels for different parts of the Monument?
- ? What transportation options should be considered for providing access to and within the Monument? What types of trail (or other) access are appropriate, and where?
- ? What is the appropriate level of development in different parts of the Monument, and what areas are appropriate for park administration and operations activities?
- ? How should the NPS work with nearby communities to encourage community understanding of the Monument and to address potential effects of development and population growth in neighboring communities on ecological, scenic, and Wilderness values of the Monument?
- ? Are there any recommendations for changes in the authorizing legislation for Pinnacles National Monument that should be considered in the GMP?

Comments: Through the outreach activities planned in this final scoping effort, the NPS welcomes additional information and suggestions from the public regarding resource protection, visitor use, and land management. This notice formally resumes the public scoping comment phase for the EIS process for the GMP. All interested persons,

organizations, agencies, and American Indian tribes wishing to express new concerns or provide information about management issues which should be addressed in the GMP and environmental impact analysis process are encouraged to contact the Superintendent (previous responses are contained in the administrative record and do not need to be resubmitted). All comments received will become part of the public record. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment--including your personal identifying information--may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

At this time, public scoping meetings are anticipated to be held during the spring of 2007; details will be announced widely in local and regional news media, via direct park mailings and through the GMP Web site: (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/pinn>). All attendees will be given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments to the planning team. The Web site will provide the most up-to-date information regarding the project, including project description, planning process updates, meeting notices, reports and documents, and useful links associated with the project.

All written comments regarding the preparation of the EIS/GMP must be postmarked or transmitted not later than May 31, 2007 and should be submitted directly to General Management Plan Team, Pinnacles National Monument, 5000 Hwy 146, Paicines, CA 95043 (or electronically through the Web site noted above).

Decision Process: At this time, the draft EIS/GMP is expected to be released for public review during the fall of 2008; following due consideration of all comments as may be submitted, the final document is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2009. Formal announcement of the availability of both documents will be published in the Federal Register, publicized via local and regional media and the internet, and via direct mailing to the project mailing list. Responsibility for approving the Final EIS/GMP is delegated to the NPS, and the official responsible for the final decision is the Regional Director, Pacific West Region; subsequently the official responsible for implementing the approved GMP is the Superintendent, Pinnacles National Monument.

Dated: January 26, 2007.
Jonathan B. Jarvis,
Regional Director, Pacific West Region.
[FR Doc. E7-6447 Filed 4-5-07; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4312-EP-P

Notices	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
For	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994						